

DERBY PLUG

Smoking Tobacco,
5c., 10c. and 20c. Plugs.

OLD CHUM CUT

Smokes Cool and Sweet.
TRY IT.

THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

VOL. X.
No. 1.

MONTREAL, JAN. 1, 1895.

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 cents.

THE CANADIAN
MILITARY GAZETTE,

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)
ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED AT MONTREAL
ON THE
1st and 15th of each Month.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE
MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada and the United States, per annum, - \$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union
Countries, - - - - - 10s 6d. stg.
Single Copies, - - - - - 10 cents

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favor of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft. Remittances should be made by post-office order or registered letter. No responsibility is assumed for subscriptions paid to agents, and it is best to remit direct.

The date when the subscription expires is on the address label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. No other receipt is sent unless requested.

Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of the GAZETTE.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the editor, P. O. Box 1011, Montreal.

MONTREAL, JAN. 1, 1895

Notes and Comments

To all of our readers a Happy New Year and to the Canadian Militia a greater measure of encouragement than has been its lot during the past twelve months.

Looking back to the beginning of 1894 it must be admitted, to use a familiar Hibernianism, that if the militia force has advanced at all since that date, it has been in a backward direction. With a new minister, and a general possessing energy and independence, the force looked for the accomplishment of considerable progress in the work of putting the militia on a satisfactory footing, but the hope has vanished in a complete disappoint-

ment. The militia has never been in a worse condition than it is to-day.

The past year has been distinctly one of retrogression. Many officers who have pluckily fought against official disappointments and discouragements for years, have at last left the force in utter disgust, and men to take their places are not forthcoming. The tendency of officialdom has been to make the service more exacting, more onerous and more and more unsatisfactory to all in it, and at the same time to rigidly withhold the least particle of that encouragement which the force has the right to expect.

Nor has the dissatisfaction been confined to the commissioned ranks. Even the best of our more efficient historical city corps have had difficulty in keeping up their establishments, while the less favoured battalions have found recruiting almost a hopeless task. The number of non-commissioned officers who have retired during the present year has been unprecedented, and this is the brightest side of the picture, for it portrays the condition of the city corps.

The rural battalions which comprised the great bulk of the militia force can hardly be said to exist any longer, except on paper, and as a matter of fact we only surmise that they have even that nominal existence. We have no official demonstration of the fact in a militia list. It would be interesting, though probably aggravating to hear just what explanation those responsible for the passage of the militia estimates through Parliament can offer for the failure of the House to pro-

vide the funds for the annual camps of training last year. On the face of it, it looks like the most disgraceful piece of legislative neglect and bungling on record. The effect has been ruinous in many cases and it is doubtful if many battalions will be able to pick up the thread of their checkered existence again. It is true enough, perhaps, that in the cases of many battalions the country would not be much the loser if their titles never appeared on a militia list again, that is if a grateful government is ever to provide us with another militia list. But then the inefficient corps might just as well have been dispatched decently, and it must be remembered that in this system of selection by the starvation method, the good are most unjustly made to suffer with the bad. It will probably be a long time before the powers that be realize what a disastrous year this has been for the rural corps.

Another disappointment of the year has been the Martini-Metford rifle, for disappointment it undeniably is. We have purposely refrained from any criticism of this much lauded new weapon until it was tested. The test has now been applied and the rifle found wanting. Were it sighted properly and in any way well balanced, it would be a good target rifle, of course. As it is wrongly sighted and so badly balanced as to make it almost impossible to hold to the shoulder it cannot be the *beau idéal* target rifle it was expected to be. Its excessive weight effectually condemns it as a service rifle.

In one branch of the service has