

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Will our subscriber in Ottawa who remitted a year's subscription last week but forgot to sign his name, please give us some clue to his identity.

A good deal of discussion is going on just now respecting the advisability of sending a regiment of Canadian Militia to take part in the Queen's jubilee. The Royal Scots, 6th Fusiliers, and 65th Rifles of Montreal; the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers of Toronto, have already taken some steps in that direction, and one of our local papers advocates the sending of the Governor General's Foot Guards. We would be glad to see the force represented on so important an occasion by one of our best regiments, but there are difficulties in the way which would require to be surmounted. In the first place, the question of expense is a formidable one and, unless the Government takes upon itself the whole cost, we do not see how it is going to be met. Taking as a basis the usual cost of transport, it would require for the voyage and return at least one hundred dollars per head for the officers, and half that amount for the men. This for five hundred men—and it would not be worth while sending a weaker regiment—would come to, including transport to and from the points of embarkation and debarkation, about thirty thousand dollars. The time occupied would be not less than, say, forty days. The pay and subsistence for this period would come to about twenty-five thousand dollars more. Allowing five thou-

sand dollars for unforeseen expenses, we may place the whole cost at sixty thousand dollars.

For such a trip, and to do honor to our beloved Queen on such an occasion, we feel satisfied that every man in the force would make every reasonable sacrifice, but we very much doubt if there is a single regiment in which all the officers and men would find it possible to leave their usual avocations for so long a time, even if the selection of one regiment to the exclusion of others were possible. This would necessitate the bringing in of men from other regiments to fill up the vacancies, and the temporary retirement of those whose places they filled. This being accomplished, the next business would be to work the battalion into shape. Even the most ardent admirer of our city corps will not pretend that the best of them, as they now stand, could hold their own in the company they would meet at the great review. They do remarkably well considering that they drill only at nights during a portion of the year, but that is not enough. If the people of Canada are going to foot the bill they would require that the selected regiment should uphold the honor of the country in a creditable manner, and that the physique, drill, discipline of interior economy and behaviour, both public and private, of the corps should be such as would win the warm applause of all those by whom they were seen, or with whom they came in contact.

This would be a crucial test that could not be stood without much hard work, and a most efficient organization. No commanding officer could hope to pass through it unless he not only received every aid and assistance from the militia authorities in the shape of money, clothing and equipments, but also had the necessary time and opportunity afforded him of putting his men through a thorough course of instruction. Every one would require to be perfect in his drill and duties before going on board ship; little, if anything, could be done afterwards. If the scheme be taken up by the Government there will be no difficulty in carrying it out. It is one in which all parties could unite. If they do so, and the weight of public opinion is found to be in its favor, we have no doubt that our energetic Minister of Militia will carry it out in a manner that will reflect the highest credit on the country. If, however, it is left to the regiments themselves to raise the necessary funds we do not think the project will ever get beyond the region of talk.

By the fixing of the opening of Parliament for the 25th instant it is decided that the annual meeting of the D.R.A. will take place on the 17th March; and, consequently, it is high time that those interested in the Association should cast over in their minds any points which they would like brought before that meeting. It is very desirable that there should be a large attendance this year, for many important points will probably come up, of which we hope to speak later, but it is not absolutely necessary that a member should attend in person to ensure his views being ventilated. Each province has representatives on the Council resident in Ottawa, and if these members have any duties to perform we presume they include enunciating the views of the riflemen in the sections for which they were nominated. Consequently