

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Second Year.
VOL. II, No. 61.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER, 1886.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
Single Copies Five Cents.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

May begin at any time, and are payable strictly in advance. Terms for Canada, the United States, or Great Britain, \$1.50; eight months, \$1.00; to clubs of four annual subscribers, four copies for \$5.00; postage in each case prepaid. Single copies can be obtained from the newsdealers at 5 cents.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Unexceptional in character will be inserted at 15 cents per line for transient matter. Rates for large spaces or extended periods will be given on application. Space estimated at four columns to the page and twelve lines to the inch.

REMITTANCES.

Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,
Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The general orders of 30th July.
The presentation of prizes at the D. R. A. meeting.
The D. R. A. scores.
The changed position of the regulars.
The enrolment of C Battery.
The defences of British Columbia.

SELECTED.

Common sense on parade, or drill without stays.—*Colburn's Magazine.*

ANNUAL GUN PRACTICE FOR FIELD BATTERIES, 1886.

A TORPEDO CORPS AT HALIFAX.

THE D. R. A. PRIZE LIST.

THE TARGET.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

EXTRACTS FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

OUR TRADING COLUMN.

Comment and Criticism.

LOOKING over the general orders of the 30th July, published to-day we find a net gain of five officers, there being fourteen promotions, seventeen losses from various causes, and twenty-two were appointments, three of these being qualified, two having professional qualifications, and the remainder being appointed provisionally. There are very few changes amongst the field officers but Capt. Raney, the popular and efficient commander of the Prescott troop of cavalry gets brevet rank as major, and Capt. Raney, of the 74th, succeeds to a majority. A couple of weeks ago we had a surgeon taking command of a company, now we have Capt. Desjardins made surgeon of the 61st. Dr. Hervieux also becomes surgeon of the 76th instead of Dr. Salvage. The Eighth have at last adopted promotion according to seniority, which should tend to increase the efficiency of that corps.

WOULD it not be well to omit altogether the ceremony of presenting the prizes at the D.R.A. meetings. For the past two years at least it has been but a scramble, with the statistical officers hurried, many of the matches unfinished, and a large proportion of the principal prize winners absent, shooting either in the skirmishing or long range matches. Besides the unfairness to these last, no very satisfactory arrangements can be made for the accommodation of either competitors or spectators on a field open to all comers. Next year we hope that there will either be no presentation, or that the principal prize winners will be bound to wait until the evening following the matches, when a well organized ceremony could be conducted in some suitable hall.

IN this number we give full scores of all the matches in the Dominion meeting, with some account of the general progress of the matches, and we would draw attention to the fact that our list is the first correct one published, many errors having crept into all previous lists, even those officially issued by the association, whereby some prize winners were omitted and other competitors were allotted prizes to which they were not entitled, or higher places than they should have held.

IF Sir Frederick Roberts gets his own way the British army will soon have gone completely to the devil, in the eyes of all the good old school of martinets. First he issues a general order directing that young soldiers shall be considered human beings, and allowance be made for the thoughtlessness of boys in adjudging punishments; whereas we all know that the only way to keep up a proper state of discipline is to entirely ignore individual characteristics and keep every man, recruit or not, up to the strictest letter of the law. And now he has further degraded the service by joining in a trivial rifle match with his subordinates, proving himself a capital shot to boot, and to cap the climax has promulgated the heresy that in choosing corps for active service he would be guided by their shooting capacities, as demonstrated by target practice. In that case, of what avail would be all the time heretofore expended on a proper polishing of buttons, and on a due capacity for wheeling like a gate and marching past like a wall. We colonials might be satisfied to conform to Sir Frederick's low standards, but to propose to bring *the* service down to such a pitch is nothing less than prospective anarchy.

THE *United Service Gazette*, which has lately embodied in its title "Organ of Imperial federation" announces that

"A detachment of Royal Engineers are now busily engaged in preparing on the spot plans for the defence of British Columbia, and it is believed that the works will be commenced before next spring. Besides the men belonging to the Imperial service, it is proposed that the Dominion shall augment its permanent militia force to garrison the place."

This augmentation probably refers to the enrolment of C battery of artillery, which has not yet been effected. If at any time it proves necessary to do this it will be found that a special rate of pay will be exacted, for recruits could neither be got nor retained at such figures as A and B batteries receive. Money over there is not worth as much as here; it is more easily earned, and its purchasing power is much less.

COLONEL O'BRIEN must be thoroughly enjoying his work on the British Columbia coast, for it seems to have been made especially for the delectation of engineer officers. Esquimalt harbor on Vancouver Island and Burrard Inlet on the mainland are so situated as to lend themselves with great facility to defence either by torpedo and mine service or by land fortifications against attacks from seaward, and the last named point possesses great strategical importance, as being the terminus of the railway. Many other harbors we are informed are naturally quite as strong as either of these, but have not up to this been much used.