

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Second Year.
VOL. II, No. 102.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 30th JUNE, 1887.

\$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.

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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.

Printed by MASON & REYNOLDS, 45 Elgin Street, Ottawa.

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Comment and Criticism.

THIS number concludes the second volume of the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, and in order that none of the matter in our hands relating to events taking place in the Canadian year ending to-day should be crowded out of the volume, we have added four extra pages. An index is in course of preparation and will be issued to subscribers shortly so that those who have preserced their fyles may have them bound without delay. An invaluable record of the doings of the Canadian Militia for the year covered may thus be kept convenient for reference in the future.

HAVING had a representative upon the ground we are able this week to give a brief description of the principal incidents of the camp of Military District No. 4, now in progress in proximity to this city. We regret that all the camps could not this year be similarly covered, but ask the kind forbearance of our readers in other districts upon the promise, which with their assistance we hope to be able to fulfil, that next and subsequent seasons all will be looked after, by personal representation or other adequate arrangement. It was very encouraging to us to hear the expressions of goodwill to the MILITIA GAZETTE expressed by our good friends the officers of No. 4 district, and with the confidence inspired by our two years establishment, we hope when next they assemble in camp they will be able with justice to speak in even kinder terms of the publication.

AT the camps of exercise now being held only one single blanket per man is allowed by the Militia department, and we respectfully submit that, even in a Canadian midsummer, that allowance is not sufficient, especially when it is supplemented neither by straw, waterproof sheet or other means of preventing the damp of the ground from striking up and affecting the sleeping men. In campaigning it may be necessary

to limit the amount of baggage transported, but in camps of exercise no such necessity exists. Men are taken from comfortable beds, without seasoning, and made to lie on the bare and oftentimes wet ground, and in bad weather the men naturally suffer from cold. The consequence is that the regimental surgeons are kept busy prescribing for cases of diarrhoea and rheumatism, or occasionally a man has to be invalided home with rheumatic fever or pneumonia. We would suggest as worthy of consideration that a waterproof sheet and pair of blankets, at least, should be allotted to every man in every future camp.

THE question of drilling men in the morning, on empty stomachs, comes up perennially, and annually every one pronounces an opinion against the wisdom of the practice, yet annually the same thing is done, and scarcely a morning passes that someone does not faint in the ranks. The present system suits neither the farmers, who are used to rising early, and breakfasting at an hour when city men are often only thinking of going to bed, nor the city men, who also breakfast before going to work. The difficulty seems to be in getting the company cooks to keep sufficient rations over night, and in getting them to work sufficiently early to make the first parade to be held before the heat of the day.

WE contend that Mr. Casey was entirely misinformed in accusing Ottawa of abusing the rifle association grant system. Putting aside the D.R.A., whose grant is of no more advantage to Ottawa shots than to shots in any other portion of the Dominion, the only associations receiving Government aid are the Metropolitan, Guards and 43rd. The Metropolitan represents the whole military district, and draws competitors from every part of that district; while no member of the Guards association can belong to the 43rd, and vice versa. The Guards association maintains weekly practices throughout the season, and thus well earns its grant; the 43rd association has members all through the counties of Ottawa, Carleton and Russell, to say nothing of Renfrew and the City of Ottawa, and annually adds some four hundred dollars of its own to the seventy-five received from Government, and there is besides in the city an active rifle club, which holds weekly competitions without receiving any government grant, which alone should prove that the Government grants were well bestowed.

A Unique Work on Canadian Topics.

Mr. Erastus Wiman, President of the Canadian Club, writes to the editor of the paper as follows:—

"It is the intention of certain members of the Canadian Club, in New York, to issue, in the form of a beautiful book, the papers which have been delivered before the club during the past winter by prominent parties, together with those which are to be delivered during the remainder of the season.

"These papers will include a speech on 'Commercial Union,' by the Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, member of Congress, who is said to be one of the most eloquent men of that body; a remarkable production by Prof. Goldwin Smith on 'The Schism in the Anglo-Saxon Race;' a paper by Dr. Grant, of the Queen's University, on 'Canada First;' one by J. W. Bengough, editor of Toronto *Grip*; by Mr. Le Moine, of Quebec, on 'The Heroines of New France;' by J. A. Fraser, 'An Artist's Experience in the Canadian Rockies;' by Edmund Collins, on 'The Future of Canada;' by Prof. G. D. Roberts, of King's College; by Geo. Stewart, jr., of Quebec; by the Rev. Dr. Eccleston, on 'The Canadian North-West;' by John McDougal, on 'The Minerals of Canada;' and by the editor, G. M. Fairchild, jr., on 'The History of the Canadian Club.' The work will also include extracts from the speeches and letters of the president.

"The book is to be issued in beautiful style, at \$1 per copy.

"A great many Canadians will doubtless desire to possess themselves of this rare compilation, and, by purchasing copies, indicate the interest which is manifested throughout Canada in the attempt of the Canadian Club to lay before Americans the resources, advantages and attractions of their native country.

"Parties desirous of obtaining copies can do so by enclosing the price of the book to James Ross, Canadian Club, 12 East 29th street, New York."