



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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NOTES AND QUERIES.

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THE MILITIA LIST.

Before the close of the present year a large majority of the Battalions of the Militia Service of Canada will have completed the fifth year of their embodiment. Consequent on the completion of this term and during its progress, will, it is presumed, be a very considerable number of brevets, in conformity with the general orders according that boon to Captains and Field Officers after five years service in their respective ranks. The face of the Militia List will thus doubtless undergo a greater change before next March, than would occur in any ordinary two years. About next March would, therefore, be an excellent time for an effort to place it on a better footing, and in a better form.

Without the slightest depreciation of the labors of the gallant officer under whose supervision it was published last year, and whose mere important duties probably prevented his affording it the attention which it really requires, it is but plain matter of fact to say that the issue of last year was a great disappointment.

No improvement had been effected in the clumsy mode of detailing the Battalions.

No attempt had been made to complete the Seniority List of Field Officers, beyond what was contained in the List of 1867—a list of special rank, which standing by itself is an invidious absurdity—Heading a List continued on year by year it would be in its proper place.

The mistakes and omissions are not only numerous, but even annoying. Officers who have passed all the three Schools are put down as having passed one *only*; and there are actual omissions of names. At least one—that of Major Alger, the Senior Major on the List, does not appear in the last issue.

Two years ago a tabular form was suggested through the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, by which the seniority of Company officers, within their Battalions, would be shewn at a glance, and which, it was thought, would, once adopted, economize both space, time

and typography. Very nearly that form, as far as can be remembered, is here annexed, though doubtless it might be improved:

(County).						
—th		Militia. Motto, &c.		(Date of embodiment.)		
Rank.	Name.	Seniority.	Qualification.	Company.		Remarks.
				No.	Locality.	

Now that officers have become thoroughly identified with the interests, the necessities, and the proprieties of the service to which they belong, there can be little doubt that they would be glad to subscribe a paying price for a reliable record of service and seniority, were it put in a respectable shape.

A circular to Battalion commanders would, or should, ensure accurate lists, and the number of field officers is not so great that the compilation of a correct seniority list need be a matter of either much time or difficulty.

THE BALLOT.

In an article appearing recently in the *Globe* it is stated that, in the opinion of those who are well acquainted with the working of the Volunteer system, the substitution of the Ballot would prove more expensive, by reason of the greater distances from Regimental head quarters, from which (it is supposed) men would be drawn.

Is there not some reason to doubt the correctness of this opinion?

Would there not always, as at present, be officers and non-commissioned officers in the township to notify and assemble the men?

Men are gathered together now from distant parts of townships remote from their Battalion head quarters. They would have no greater distances to traverse if they were drawn by ballot.

Take as an instance the County of Northumberland. The township of Sey-

mour is situated at the farthest diagonal corner of the county, as remote as is possible from Cobourg, the head quarters, Campbellford, the municipal centre, is 42 miles from Cobourg; and men belonging to the Campbellford Company come in many miles to that village. Would they have to come in any further, if they were balloted.

The Militia system is beginning to work well, but it is still open to the vital objection that volunteering lays the burden entirely on the willing, who pay both in taxation and personal service, while the tame, the lazy, and the disaffected, profit by their double sacrifice. Nothing will set aside this fact.

It is therefore matter of satisfaction to earnest members of the Force to see that the Adjutant General advocates the Ballot in his report for 1870.

Let us hope at all events that some system may be devised which will abolish from the Canadian citizen army the very name of "Volunteer"—a term which means everything that is lax, self-opinionated, and inimical to that perfect self-abnegation which is the basis of Military Discipline.

The *Mechanics' Magazine* tells us that there can be no doubt that at the present moment the naval power of England is seriously jeopardized by the disorganization and dissatisfaction which exists throughout the whole of the naval service, and it is only fair to assume that such results as the loss of the *Captain*, and the stranding of the *Agincourt* are referable to the chaos which prevails in the great department of the Admiralty. . . . The absence of a sound and efficient system of education for our naval officers is not the only want of our navy. The present system of administration, pursued at the Admiralty is neither economical or effective, as distinctly pointed out by the Duke of Somerset. It is a significant fact that there was not a single witness before the committee, of which the noble duke was chairman, who approved of the present admiralty system. There is at present nearly a complete stoppage of the 'flow of promotion,' in the service and, as a consequence, immense dissatisfaction,