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MILITARY GAZETTE

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NEWS OF THE SERVICE.

Our readers are requested to contribute promptly to this department all important items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice.

Commanding officers and adjutants should see that full particulars are promptly sent of anything out of the ordinary that may be done in connection with their corps. All members of the force are invited to express their opinion on subjects under discussion or to make suggestions that may improve the efficiency of the service. If news items are not inserted—and this may frequently happen—it will be because other and perhaps more important matter has come in ahead of it, or the news may be stale. Lack of space usually prevents the publication of full scores at other than the larger matches.

Opinions expressed in correspondence are not necessarily the views of THE GAZETTE—in fact we often materially differ from our correspondents.

Address,

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,
Montreal.

CHANGE OF D. O. C.

MONTREAL, Nov. 14.—“THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE’S Montreal correspondent makes the charge in the last issue that many of the companies of the city corps were plugged for the last inspection with men from other corps. The writer had evidently not investigated closely, for very little of this went on, but what did occur, a large number of men who had served out their time turned up for inspection to help out their old corps, and what could otherwise be expected? The militia, and especially the Montreal force, has received scant support in the past from the Government, and men would not join or stay in the ranks, that is, in large numbers.”

The above paragraph appeared in the military column of the Montreal Herald. The item which appeared in THE GAZETTE gave cause for a good deal of talk among both officers and men, and instead of it being denied it was freely commented upon as being correct in every detail. As a matter of fact, the writer of the above paragraph would appear to be trying to back up the fact that they were plugged, for it will be noticed he says that very little plugging was done. The very fact of the admission of a little being done proves that the statement was correct. He also says that many of the men whose time had expired assisted their late companies at inspection. Is that not plugging? Is it the proper thing to allow those men to fill the ranks of a company when they are really civilians? If these men have such a desire to help their old corps, why should they not rejoin and attend drill during the season? There are captains who would give a good deal to have a full company at inspection, but would scorn to use unfair means to have it so. It is not by these means that the Montreal corps will secure greater support from the Government. It is just the opposite way. As long as the regiments are returned about full up to strength less attention will be paid to the petitions for greater facilities to popularise the corps, as it would be natural for them to suppose that with full strength there could not

be much cause for complaint. On the other hand, if matters were done in a fair and above-board fashion they would be able to judge more fully of the requirements of the corps, as they would then see that some corps were away down in the matter of strength. It is to be hoped that by next season better facilities will be granted the force, so that this will be done away with.

THERE is nothing going on at all just now in drill. There are non-coms. and recruit classes being held at several of the armories. The Vics. started a recruit class a short time ago under Sergt. Rivet. It is very well attended, and the non-coms. class of this corps is making good progress. Major Lydon, of the Scots, has still a number of probable non-coms. under his instruction.

MANY of the officers of the different corps think that now would be a good time for the Government to issue some of the new rifles, so that they might have a knowledge of it before the drill season starts. There is a good deal in what they say. An officer is more or less a conspicuous individual both to the spectators and the company. If he does not do his work just as it should be done he is looked upon as having no right to hold the position he does. If they are not given the opportunity to post themselves in the new arm before drill begins it means that much valuable time will be lost, for they will be as backward as the men. It would be well for the authorities to send a supply to each regiment and have a qualified instructor from the permanent force to instruct them as to the different parts of the rifle. Officers, as a rule, get very little instruction in this way, and it would be well to have them thoroughly posted on the mechanism of the rifle.

MORRIS Tube work has commenced in many of the armories. Good work results from this practice, for when the young aspirant for honors at the rifle matches has put in a season's work at this, he generally gives a pretty good account of himself at the ranges. It is doing away in a great measure with the coachings of the young shot at the ranges, where he in times gone by used to suffer a good deal of chaff in his attempt to find the target. He can now go on the range, if not with the confidence of an old shot, at least with a knowledge of his rifle.

DA ME RUMOR is having a busy time just now in Montreal military circles. It is going the rounds that before long there will be a change of D.O.C. Some have it that Major Bliss, D.A.A.G. at Ottawa, will be transferred to Montreal, and others that Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.O.C., Toronto, will come east. If it is true that Lieut.-Col. Houghton is to be retired, it means that an officer who has spent the best part of his life will have to go without recognition by the Government. There are no other officers in the service who deserve to be recognized more than district staff officers, on the ground that after having spent a certain number of years in the militia as staff officers, they are utterly unfitted for