

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

First Year.  
VOL. I, No. 4.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 2nd June, 1885.

\$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 each.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

Unexceptionable in character will be inserted at 15 cents per line for transient matter. Rates for large spaces or extended periods will be found in the advertising columns. 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.

Poundmaker's surrender.  
Big Bear's position.  
Volunteer Field Artillery in England.  
The resignation of commissions in time of active service.  
Battalion versus Staff Medical Service.  
The time kept by bands.  
Military headquarters for Canada.

### CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES.

The week's doings in the North-West.  
Rifles and Rifle Shooting (III) — Capt. Perley.

### SELECTED.

Military Rifles—R. A. Inst.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

From the Battleford Column.  
Regimental vs. Staff Surgeons.

### PERSONAL.

DOINGS OF CORPS AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS.

### PUBLICATIONS.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

Volunteer Military Medical Officers.

### THE TARGET.

New musketry regulations.

EXTRACTS FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Poundmaker's surrender "makes things easier," allowing the whole of the forces in the country, with the exception of those left to garrison the Mounted Police stations, to concentrate their attention on Big Bear. The surrender is ample justification of Col. Otter's sortie, with which there was some disposition to find fault, but it is doubtful if that alone would have sufficed to subdue him. If buffalo were as plentiful as of yore it is probable that more persuasion would have been necessary; but the effort to support 2,000 people on the products of the chase might well have puzzled a man with more resources at his command than Poundmaker could boast. In giving himself up this chief must have felt pretty certain that he was giving away his own life for the good of his followers, and he commands a certain amount of pity and respect for his unselfish action. We have no belief in the rumor that his followers released on parole have gone to join Big Bear; if they had had any intention of doing so they would not have cried "enough" and have come voluntarily into Battleford.

Signs are not wanting of an early break-up of the North-west campaign; the corps last ordered out have not been sent forward; several members of corps at the front have been allowed home on leave, and whole corps are beginning to speculate about the probable date of their return, while General Middleton speaks of calling for volunteers to remain in the several garrisons. It may be that in all this our con-

tingent are reckoning without their host, for if Big Bear has 800 warriors in the woods on the north side of the river he may make things most uncommonly unpleasant for many months to come. If he can manage to evade a decisive action with the troops he has a line of retreat into the north country over which it will be well-nigh impossible to follow him, and it will be necessary to keep a large force on the river to sit down and wait until he is starved out; and even if he is caught and satisfactorily whipped there will be small dissatisfied bands creating such an element of danger that under the most favorable circumstances the country along the Saskatchewan from Edmonton to Prince Albert will have to be garrisoned with a much larger force than the Mounted Police, at least until the rigors of winter have brought all the Indians to see the benefits of a prompt and constant provision of food by the Government.

At a recent meeting of the United Service Institution in London the matter of supplying the volunteer force with field guns, a point on which they apparently feel sore, was discussed. It seems either that field guns have never been provided to the volunteer force, or that they were given and taken away again. Perhaps the English authorities might not be above taking a hint from our latest experiences, where the seven-pounders alone saved Col. Otter's force from defeat, and where the light artillery and Gatling gun with General Middleton were the chief agents in driving the half-breeds back from one position to another and in saving enormous loss of life to the infantry. Here most of our volunteer field batteries are remarkably efficient, and the men being to a large extent resident in rural districts are able to turn out horses that, if not perfectly drilled, have lots of work in them and can get the guns through pretty rough country, which is after all the main point.

In another column attention is directed by the medical press to the action of certain militia surgeons in withholding their services from their respective battalions when these were called out for active service. We are not aware what reasons were given, if any, to the authorities in the special instances referred to, for their course of action at such a crisis in our history, but the facts serve to show that volunteering in Canada at times becomes a stern reality and that positions should not be accepted on the roll without due consideration and a full sense of the responsibilities involved. He that putteth his hand to the plough must on no account turn back, and he that wadgeth a war must count the cost thereof. The whole question, in fact, of volunteers' obligations to the crown and country is here opened up, and there can be only one opinion as to what these are, viz; to serve her in time of necessity regardless of personal loss or inconvenience. On this point the volunteer militia system hinges, and the rule is quite as applicable to the medical staff as in the case of combatants.

A correspondent at the front of considerable experience in military medical matters introduces a very important topic for discussion, which will be found in our present issue. The subject is no doubt well