

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Fourth Year.  
VOL. III, No. 66.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 1888.

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

## CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

A CANADIAN STAFF CORPS.

THE BATTLE OF HALIFAX.

REGIMENTAL NEWS.

THE RIFLE—

Toronto corps doings.

The Grenadiers take the field.

The British Columbia corps inspected by Major-General Middleton.

Cobourg Rifle Association.

Bowmanville Rifle Association.

No. 6 Co. of the 90th, annual matches.

## A Canadian Staff Corps.

[Communicated.]

Our permanent corps, cavalry, artillery and infantry, including the mounted branch of the latter arm, now number, as authorized by law, 940 n. c. officers and men, and a total, including officers, of 996. These corps being examples and instructors to the militia generally, should be in the highest degree efficient, and no expense should be spared in making them the finest military organization in the world as regards training and equipment; and the officers and n. c. officers should be as perfect as possible in their profession, both for the sake of offence and defence, as well as for the benefit of the militia; this being their *raison d'être*.

To anyone who has given any serious attention to the military needs of this country, it must appear clear that the advantages of training given to the permanent corps and the militia for various reasons fall far short of what might be expected for the sum annually voted for military purposes; and I propose to endeavour to show how the present usefulness of our permanent corps, and consequently its effect on the militia generally, could be augmented, and the officers trained in a way that would render them more valuable to the country in the event of their services being required, than is now possible.

As it is, the junior subalterns in our permanent corps are expected to handle and command, both in barracks and the field, a battery, regiment of cavalry or infantry, and also to be able to give all instructions and details for the same, a thing certainly neither expected nor obtained in the Imperial service. It looks, therefore, as if the Government expect to maintain a staff corps of officers; if, however, such is their expectation, they are only half carrying out what could reasonably and easily be obtained if a rather more generous system was adopted for the training of not only the permanent corps, but, through them, the militia.

We have now eight stations for permanent corps. These stations are far distant, and if an artilleryman in the Winnipeg Field Battery wishes for a course he has to go to Kingston or Victoria; if a cavalryman at London desires the same he has to go to Quebec, while the officers of the permanent cavalry, artillery and infantry know little of the practical working of the three arms combined, a most desirable knowledge for a soldier.

Now the expense of transport for cavalry, artillery and infantry militia to the different stations of their arms could be saved, and a great good to the country obtained, by maintaining at *each* station the three arms. Take, for instance, Kingston, with its 150 n. c. officers and gunners. Make there a field battery, 4 guns (or 6, better), well horsed, with 100 n. c. officers and men, send half a troop, or rather 20 men and 1 officer, and send 40 infantry and 1 officer; all to be under the com-

mand of its present commandant, who would then be a commandant in reality! Deal the same with all, giving each commandant as at present the preponderance of his own arm. By this means not only might all the officers of this staff corps (a similar uniform being worn) be interchangeable, if required, but they would all have a practical knowledge of the three arms combined, a knowledge which is of the greatest possible benefit to a soldier. By this means also each militia district would be able to have training for all arms, without a large outlay for transport expenses; and also all infantry officers attending could pass a riding course, which instruction, there is no denying, is urgently required in the infantry.

I append a table showing distribution, pointing out that the increase to the establishment might be slight; but I feel sure that the results to the militia would amply repay the increased expenditure, and it must be remembered that there is accommodation at nearly all the barracks for this slight increase.

STATION.	Cavalry.	Artillery.	Infantry.	M. Infantry	Guns.	Total Guns	Total Men
Quebec*	20	100	40	.....	4	4	160
Kingston	20	100	40	.....	4	4	160
Victoria‡	.....	100	40	.....	.....	.....	140
Fredericton	20	25	80	.....	1	1	125
St. John's	20	25	80	.....	1	1	125
Toronto	20	25	80	.....	1	1	125
London	20	25	80	.....	1	1	125
Winnipeg,†	.....	25	40	40	4	4	105
	120	425	480	40	16	16	1065
Present establishment	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	940
Increase	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	125

\* Quebec only requires one station, if such a scheme were carried out.

‡ No field guns required.

† No cavalry required.

## Regimental News.

### Toronto.

The Queen's Own paraded 475 strong on Wednesday 10th inst., at the drill shed, and marched to Moss Park rink, where the regiment put in two hours drill under Col. Allan.

On the return to the shed, the prizes won by members of "G" and "D" Co's. in their company matches, were distributed.

The band concert on Friday evening (12th inst.) was a great success. The combined bands of the 13th Battalion (Hamilton), Grenadiers and Queen's Own, played four selections, and each band played two selections besides, all of which were most enthusiastically received. Mr. Bayley (bandmaster of the Q.O.R.) deserves great praise for bringing this undertaking to so successful an issue.

The regimental rifle matches were held on Saturday last. Every-