

The Canadian Militia Gazette

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

WE are requested to state that in consequence of the large number of members of the Ontario Artillery Association who are interested in the return of their friends to Parliament the annual meeting will not be held on the 24th instant as advertised in our columns. In order, however, to comply with the strict letter of the constitution, a nominal meeting of the Toronto members will take place for the purpose of adjourning to some date more convenient to all.

WRITING privately to the Editor, an esteemed commanding officer who does not desire to argue the point in print takes exception to the arraignment of the officers of rural corps made in letters recently published. "In my battalion," he says, "which is not exceptional, I have not now, I think, one officer who is not qualified for his position and able to instruct his men. What more do you want? And what officer would trouble himself to keep up a skeleton battalion?" Now we know that in many so-called "rural" battalions the position of affairs is just as satisfactory as this commanding officer reports, and at camp these show marked superiority over many of the corps drilled only at their city headquarters. Needless to say, battalions of this class do a great deal of drill apart from that called for by regulation. The *esprit de corps* which prompts this purely voluntary work causes them to resent indiscriminating criticism of rural corps as a class.

"WE understand," says the *Broad Arrow*, "that the Government will be pressed from both sides of the House of Commons to utilise the Canadian Pacific as a military road to the East. The proposal, however, is unpopular with the military authorities, because of the necessity of transshipment involved by it. There would be the landing at Halifax, the conveyance by rail, and the detraining and embarking on the Pacific. These matters present themselves in a very forbidding light to the War Office and transport authorities, and so long as it can be maintained, the route will remain as at present, *via* the St. Lawrence Canal and direct by sea. To the question, why, if the road across Canada is not to be used for army purposes, did the Home Government subsidize the Canadian Pacific? the answer will be that the line might some day be useful as an alternative route. At

present it is unnecessary, and offers rather an alternative of objections. This will be explained upon the practical ground that if the Atlantic route were adopted, it would be necessary to maintain two lines of troopers, one from Portsmouth to Halifax, and another line across the Pacific. This would add to the expense of the service, and the Government is 'not prepared to swell the estimates for the sake of a railway interest, or at the dictation of Colonial sentiment.'"

THE following, from the *Broad Arrow*, will be read with interest, from the old military associations it will bring to mind:—"With the retirement of Colonel Milligan, the last of the Colonial Staff Officers of Pensioners disappears from the Army List. He has filled the duties at Toronto for many years past. The late Col. J. G. D. Tulloch, it may be remembered, was for a long period in chief charge of the Canadian pension staff, with the office and rank of Military Superintendent, and he had under his orders staff officers at Toronto, Quebec, Ontario, Montreal and London. Of officers who filled the duties on the Canadian pension staff, a well-remembered name is that of the late Colonel Wily, who, during the hottest part of the battle of Sobraon, succeeded to the command of the 50th, and brought it out of action, his gallantry on that occasion calling forth the marked and written approbation of Lord Gough, Sir Harry Smith, and Brigadier Penny. The late Captain Robert Naylor Rogers, also on the Canadian staff, carried the colours of the 2nd Battalion 30th, at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, and obtained an appointment on the pension staff as a reward for his services."

WHILE printing the following paragraph, for its interest as mere rumour, we believe there is no likelihood of an interruption of the annual prize meetings of the N. R. A. This, however, is what the *United Service Gazette* says: "There is some doubt being expressed as to whether after all the National Rifle Association will hold its annual competition at Bisley this year. The question is agitating the minds of a large number of Southern Volunteers, who are beginning to fear that the answer will be in the negative. It is well known that last year's meeting at Bisley led to a loss, and that the funds of the Association are now at a very low ebb. Furthermore, the new site is heavily mortgaged,