

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The affairs of the Tenth Royal Grenadiers are paraded in two columns of the *Toronto Mail* of last Saturday by a mischief maker whose plaints are told at length by our Toronto correspondent. It is alleged that the commanding officer is not disposed to promote to the junior Majority an officer entitled to it by seniority and well qualified to discharge the duties, but under whom other officers of the corps do not wish to serve. The Colonel is charged with unbecoming weakness in hearkening to the murmurings of these officers, and allowing himself to be influenced also by a lady of the Grenadiers society circle whose good-will the opposed officer unfortunately does not possess.

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It is not long since another personal grievance was aired, relative to the officering of the Grenadiers. Then the contention was rather different, the Colonel being criticised for insisting upon retaining for a few years the command he had earned through long service and consequent seniority. The doctrine then proclaimed was that he should sacrifice himself to gratify the natural if impatient ambition of some juniors; but it seems that no one but the Colonel is expected to sacrifice himself, and that for all other posts military qualifications only are to be considered.

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Whatever the grievances of any officer in the Grenadiers may be, the letter in the *Mail* is a thoroughly discreditable production, and the general verdict will surely be that the writer is no friend either of the corps or of the officer whose cause he professes to champion. That there should be dissension amongst the officers is not surprising—it would be singular if there were not; but to make the trouble a matter of newspaper discussion is calculated to prevent rather than effect a reconciliation.

There is, however, a lesson for the whole militia in this unpleasant affair. That is, that greater care should be exercised in conferring commissions. It is not sufficient that a man will make a good enough subaltern; his character and disposition should be such as to fit him for the higher commands to which he will eventually aspire. And to properly fill these high places an officer should have means and good social position.

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The first mention we have seen of participation by our militia in the World's Fair celebration, was the intimation made by our Toronto correspondent last week that the Queen's Own Rifles Buglers contemplate the trip. The idea naturally suggests itself that a corps representative of the very best of our militia might be organised with little trouble, and equipped and drilled so as to appear with credit on that occasion. It would be a hard matter to get any one of our crack corps to go in a body, but each could easily send a picked company. We would like to have for our correspondence columns some opinions as to this scheme.

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When the National Rifle Association meets, on the 24th inst., the proposals made last year by a large number of competitors, that all the purely Volunteer contests should be confined to the first week of the annual competitions at Bisley, instead of in many cases being extended over the fortnight, will be again brought forward for discussion and consideration. The arguments in support are based on the fact that the competitors chiefly come from the provinces and Scotland, who enter mainly for the Queen's and St. George's Prizes, but who, with the extra target accommodation now afforded, could compete in many other matches in the first week. The prize meeting at Bisley is to commence on July 11.

## GLEANINGS.

Herr Maxim, the great gunmaker, has a scheme for attaching a camera to a big kite, by means of which it will be possible to obtain bird's-eye views of great cities without the trouble and peril of ballooning.

The following story is now making grand rounds: "A drill-instructor, one of the old stamp of martinet sergeants—who was the terror of every recruit, and the remorseless tyrant of the awkward squad—was putting a firing party through the funeral service. Having opened the ranks so as to admit the passage of the supposed *cortege* between them, the instructor ordered the men to rest on their arms reversed. Then, by way of practical information, he walked slowly down the lane formed by the two ranks, saying, as he did so: 'Now I'm the corpse; pay attention.' Having reached the end of the party, he turned round, regarded them steadily with a scrutinising eye for a moment or two and then remarked, in a most solemn tone of voice: 'Your hands is right, and your heads is right; but you 'aven't got that look of regret you ought to 'ave.'

That victories are won chiefly by legs was an axiom of the First Napoleon, the truth of which is universally admitted. It is especially applicable in the present day, when enormous armies on the theatre of war must be disseminated to be fed, and concentrated to fight. The fact is fully recognized in foreign armies, and great attention is therefore paid to the constant training of soldiers to perform long and rapid marches. The results are excellent. The Russian soldiers are notoriously untiring marchers. The Austrians march well, the Germans better. With reference to the latter, the able correspondent of the *Times*, during the recent manoeuvres, wrote the other day:—"The reputation of the Germans for marching has stood high ever since the last war. In 1883 I was with a brigade which averaged 32 miles a day for three consecutive days; but though I cannot this time reduce the work done to precise figures of distance, I can assert that, from my own observation and from what I learnt from the same officers who had been present on the occasion above alluded to, the work done was as hard again, for during the last week it was incessant and exactly as it would be in war."—*Army and Navy Gazette*.