

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## 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.

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## Comment and Criticism.

NOW that another camping season is in progress, we would repeat our suggestion that commandants or inspecting officers should speak plainly about any faults or abuses they may see in the course of their official duties. Indiscriminate praise is in nowise calculated to promote efficiency, yet it is far too prevalent, and we have a better opinion of the average militiaman than to think him so touchy that he cannot brook to have his faults pointed out to him, if the thing is done in a kindly spirit. Last spring we praised some officers for telling the truth in their annual reports, and remarked on the need of more wholesome blame, a view which elicited the following endorsement from the *United Service Gazette*: "We agree with the spirit of the above remarks, and can recall how until recently a similar state of things existed in our midst: The inspection of our auxiliaries, militia, yeomanry and volunteers alike, was invariably concluded with adulatory remarks on their especial fitness. A healthier tone now exists, and praise and blame are meted out as the merits or demerits of corps demand. 'Praise undeserved is censure in disguise,' and our Canadian contemporary has done good service in directing official attention to the subject."

A VERY favorable report on the new Canadian Snider ammunition is that contained in the letter of Capt. Macdonald, published elsewhere in this issue. But we would like to put the author right upon one point, for setting him astray on which perhaps we are responsible. This is, that there is not one grain of Canadian powder in the new ammunition. It had been intended that Canadian powder should be used and we announced the fact, but for some reason the original in-

tention was departed from, and English powder in store at the factory was used instead in the special D. C. ammunition now being served out and tested in all parts of the country.

AS has been chronicled in the daily press, the Canadian artillery team continue to meet with marked success in the Shoeburyness competitions. They are receiving a royal welcome in England, and are all the more cordially received on account of the remembrance of the treatment the British team received at the hands of the Canadians a couple of years ago. In connection with the series of victories of the Canadian team, the letter on the subject which appears in our correspondence column will repay perusal. We would like to hear others opinions also on this point.

THE Provincial rifle matches at Montreal which came off last week presented many features which were different from those of the past; and this being the first of such occasions when sighting shots were done away with and the extra series matches introduced, it would not be fair to criticise too closely. There is no doubt that there were many things which might have been better and which a little foresight ought to have prevented. On the first day there was a good deal of grumbling at the extra series being closed ten to fifteen minutes before the regular matches commenced, thus depriving a great many visitors of the opportunity of getting their sighting. Then many of the register keepers seemed new to their work, and rumors were frequent of "bulls" being given for "mags" and "inners" for "outers." The Guards seemed particularly unfortunate, one man being ruled out of the aggregate for a score which both he and the man who shot with him aver was what the register keeper called out, while another, through an error in addition, had ten points struck off. This was fortunately discovered in time. An old shot belonging to the Prince of Wales regiment and another belonging to the 85th protested against being ruled out for being a few seconds late, while others shot half an hour or more after the time marked on their cards. A great deal of valuable time was also lost between matches and in changing targets. Under ordinary circumstances this would not have mattered much, but on the present occasion, when four days' shooting was crowded into two, it was an injury to both the association and the competitors. The former lost money by having to make a refund for tickets which could not be shot, and the latter were obliged to shoot so very late that it was hardly possible to see the targets. No doubt all this will be remedied another year, and the council will see that every competitor leaves the ground perfectly satisfied. Personally we are much indebted for kindness received to the secretary, Major Blaiklock, the treasurer, Lt.-Col. Martin, the chief executive officer, Lt.-Col. Mattice, and others, all of whom we hope to meet on many similar occasions.

THE lists of prize-winners at the annual prize meeting of the Manitoba rifle association, held last week, will be published in our next issue, as the particulars of the last day's shooting did not reach us in time for this and we think it better to publish the complete list in