

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Second Year.
VOL. II, No. 79.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 20th JANUARY, 1887.

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

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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.

Printed by MASON & REYNOLDS, 45 Elgin Street, Ottawa.

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Comment and Criticism.

WE learn that Gen. Middleton has decided that officers are eligible to take a three months' course at the R. M. C. without having served nine months at a school of instruction previously to doing so, and we are glad to find this interpretation put upon the regulations; for as we said in our previous remarks on the subject, the men most likely to do credit to themselves and to the force are those whose time is too valuable to permit them to devote a whole year to a long course. This difficulty having been overcome, we want to see as many men as possible take advantage of this course and secure for themselves the highest certificate for military instruction given in Canada. The commandant of the R. M. C., or the adjutant-general here, will furnish all required information, and we can only urge once more every man who has a school certificate and can spare three months from the 10th March next to go.

THE New Brunswick rifle association have just issued their annual report, which shows that they have been not only active but eminently successful in their operations during the past year. We reproduce in another column the report of the council to the members. On one point only do they complain, and that is of the apathy which many of the militia officers show towards the work of the association. Unfortunately in this respect the experience of our maritime friends is common to all other associations in Canada.

WHEN we consider that the Dominion association can only show a membership of one hundred and forty we cannot help feeling that something is radically wrong. It appears to us that when a man excepts the command of a regiment of militia he should be made to understand that his position carries with it certain responsibilities, and that one of these is a generous support of all institutions intended either in a local or general way to improve the efficiency of the force at large. Consequently, we believe that every commanding officer, yes, and every field officer, in the active force and retired list should be a member not only of the Dominion rifle or artillery association, but also of his own provincial association. Some of us have got too much into the habit of wanting an investment of \$2 to bring us a gain of \$3, and the sooner we are taught that some things should be encouraged without any reference to this mercenary aspect of the case the better it will be for the country.

AS one part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Queen's accession, the 20th June next, a movement has been begun with the object of organizing a field day on a grand scale at Ottawa, in which it is suggested that all the militia within a reasonable distance of the Capital should participate. We should greatly like to see this proposal carried into effect. It would do good in many ways, bringing the different corps into touch with one another, and placing them under the immediate supervision of the headquarters staff, of the heads of the government, and of parliament, if, as seems possible, it happened to be in session. Very suitable ground for manœuvring and for overlooking could be got, ground which would suffer no damage and would be rough enough to develop tactical skill, while it would effectually choke off mere review movements. To make the project a success it must be earnestly taken up by the whole city; the municipal corporation must exert itself and probably financially help the movement, and the government will also have to arrange for the necessary transport. But such a field day, if consummated, would be worth a great deal of trouble and expense.

THE summary of last year's military doings in England, which we reproduce from the *United Service Gazette*, is equally as interesting to us Canadians as to those for whom it was originally intended. In treating of the auxiliary forces their efficiency is not reckoned very highly, nor is this the first time that the periodical in question has condemned the militia and volunteers. But even if it goes beyond the facts in condemning the low standard of the auxiliaries it is well that all possible defects should be emphasized, and that all from brigade staffs down to privates should be eternally reminded of what they should aim at. Of what use would any paper be if it never pointed out defects? Fault-finding may be impalatable but it is wholesome medicine.

IN this issue we publish a synopsis of the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Ontario artillery association held in Toronto last week. The council in their annual report make some important recommendations well worthy of consideration. These deal with the question of providing a suitable and central range for the competitions; the award-