

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

First Year.
VOL. I, No. 21.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 29th September, 1885.

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

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

May begin at any time, and are payable strictly in advance. Terms for Canada, the United States, or Great Britain, \$1.50; eight months, \$1.00; to clubs of four annual subscribers, four copies for \$5.00; postage in each case prepaid. Single copies can be obtained from the newsdealers at 5 cents each.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Unexceptionable in character will be inserted at 15 cents per line for transient matter. Rates for large spaces or extended periods will be found in the advertising columns. Space estimated at four columns to the page and twelve lines to the inch.

REMITTANCES

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

A scarcity of drill money in Toronto.
The field allowance to the N. B. Batt.
The wants of the English volunteer force and our own.
Uniforms for the officers.
The plan of giving bonuses for M.S. certificates.
Fine weather for the district camp.
The British Columbia R. A. meeting.

CONTRIBUTED.

Rifles and Rifle Shooting, (xx) — Capt. Perley.
Notes from the Brockville camp.

SELECTED.

The wants of the English vo'unteer force.

PERSONALS.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

PUBLICATIONS.

The 90th on active service.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

THE TARGET.

The Dufferin Rifles' R. A. Meeting.
The Dom. Police R. A. annual meeting.

GLEANINGS.

kits at a cost of about \$100 apiece, and are consequently entitled to the allowance in accordance with G. O. of 11th April. We think the fault must lie somewhere with the officers in question themselves, as the Government have shown a disposition to deal generously with all those who made sacrifices to serve their country when called upon, and has granted the field allowance to the Prince of Wales' Rifles and the 32nd Battalion, whose cases were identical with that of the New Brunswick Provisional Battalion.

We publish to-day an article on the wants of the English volunteer force, from which it will be seen that if our own organization is not perfect or the regulations for its maintenance wholly satisfactory, we are at least not alone in our misfortunes. In many respects the wants and failings of the two forces are identical, notably in the absence of sufficient staff organization and camping equipment, in the difficulty of efficiently training the men in the short time they can be got for instruction, in the poor shooting of the force as a whole, and in the scarcity of properly qualified officers.

The question of providing officers has always been, in Canada, a difficult problem, and now we have two very objectionable things occurring, officers being appointed and kept on the list who are not qualified, and others being appointed who have not sufficient standing to make them an example to the men. General Middleton, at Niagara camp, is reported to have found fault with the uniforms of the officers there, and certainly the officers in many rural battalions appear worse equipped than the men. But the fact is that sufficient inducement is not given to the best men to accept commissions, and as all officers going into camp are out of pocket there are very few who can afford the expense of a complete uniform in addition to their other multifarious expenses. If the department cannot see their way to uniforming the officers as well as the men could they not furnish the uniforms and deduct their cost from the drill pay by a sliding scale extending over two or three years? By whatever means it is accomplished it is certainly desirable to make the officers an example to their subordinates in the matter of dress, and this is not always the case now.

When the military schools were first established under the regulars a bonus of \$50 accompanied each certificate, and this was sufficient inducement to young men from rural districts to attend, and as a consequence there was a fair supply of qualified officers and non-commissioned officers. It seems as if some similar arrangement at the present time would be a good investment. If a cadet can be secured with any taste for military matters and well drilled for three or four months he is safe sooner or later to turn up as a commissioned officer, and if the rules of the schools are rigidly enforced a certificate would guarantee that he would make a good officer. Let the schools then be opened not only to officers but to would-be officers, and give the cadets enough to pay their expenses and buy tobacco and in a very few years there will be a great change for the better in the officering of our militia and especially of our rural corps.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The Toronto *Telegram* lately complains grievously of the attitude of the Militia Department towards the Grenadiers and Queen's Own in cutting down their drill pay to the lowest peg, by allowing to complete their annual training only the difference between the number who went to the North-west and the authorized strength of the battalions. We do not see how the department could in justice have acted otherwise. Certain rules were laid down, amongst them that companies should not exceed 42 men in all, and that only those who had put in no service this year should be eligible for pay. Under these rules the militia authorities could not have acted otherwise than as they did. If the *Telegram* had taken the broader ground of arguing that the grant for drill purposes was too small, and that if first-class corps were needed they should be granted sufficient to enable them to turn out in full strength every year, we would have endorsed the sentiment heartily, but we cannot see that even Toronto's fine corps can complain of receiving exactly the same treatment as is meted out to other corps throughout the Dominion.

A correspondent in the *St. John Globe* of the 25th complains that the officers of the New Brunswick Provisional Battalion, organized when it was thought additional troops would be required for the North-west, have received from the Government no field allowance, although they actually left their headquarters and supplied themselves with full