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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The Militia General Orders.
R. M. C. entrance examinations.
The marriage question again.
Drill halls and their use.
New Military Order Projected.
A French view of the U. S. defences.
German fire discipline.
Lord Wolseley on the soldier's training.

THE NEW RED BOOK.
ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.
THE BRITISH ARMY.
REGIMENTAL NEWS.
The Eighth Royal Rifles.
Garrison recreation.
What the *Star* Says.
MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS (Nos. 1 and 2.)

Topics of the Week.

After the long lapse necessitated in order that the Militia List now in the printer's hands should be correct to the 1st of January, a long list of changes in the personnel of the officers of the force was issued on the 4th inst. The list includes 24 appointments, besides those consequent on the establishment of a new 91st Battalion, 23 promotions, and 15 resignations. The new corps is designated the "91st Battalion Manitoba Light Infantry," its headquarters will be Stoney Mountain, Man., and the Lieut.-Colonel commanding will be Warden Bedson of the penitentiary there, and who was Major in the recently disbanded 91st. Only the staff officers have yet been appointed, and these, with one exception, belonged to the disbanded corps. Its successor will be a six company rural regiment.

The next annual examination of candidates for admission to the Royal Military College will be held on the 11th of June. They will take place at the headquarters of each military district furnishing candidates. The subjects for examination are mathematics, grammar and composition, geography, history, literature, Latin and French, and drawing. Full particulars appear in the Militia General Orders in this issue. The applicants for admission to the College are year by year becoming more numerous, and it seems quite likely that the prescribed limit of only twenty-four new cadets a year will have to be exceeded, not as a favour only, but as a regular thing. It is to be hoped that the long sought for and promised increase in the accommodation at the College will shortly be furnished.

The *Army and Navy Journal*, the leading service paper in the United States, thus approves of the prohibition against soldiers marrying recently made by the Inspector-General: "An 'anxious' correspondent asks our opinion of the recommendation by Brigadier-General Jones, Inspector General, 'that no married enlisted man who may now be serving his first enlistment in any troop, battery or company should be permitted to re-enlist; that no authority be granted hereafter for soldiers to marry, and that no married recruit should be accepted under any circumstances.' There is but one answer, it seems to us, and that is that the recommendation of General Jones should very speedily be made a regulation. It is not a matter of sentiment or humanity, but a practical question of vital interest to the interior economy and discipline of the army at large, as every line officer and soldier devoted to his profession must know."

A friend in Montreal writes us, enclosing a letter from Capt. F. Lydon, Adjutant of the Fifth Royal Scots, which recently appeared in

the *Star*, and also an editorial paragraph on the subject published in the same paper. These are reproduced in another place in this issue. In inviting the MILITIA GAZETTE to lend its aid, our correspondent says: "Our drill halls are valuable buildings, and are duly appreciated by the force all over the Dominion, but their usefulness would be much greater if a first class gymnasium were part of the fixings of each, considering that for a few months each winter, without the attractions of drill, the buildings are virtually deserted. I am sure that if the authorities would act on the suggestion to fit up a first class gymnasium the corps in Montreal would gladly unite in bringing out a first class instructor from the School of Military Gymnastics in Aldershot. Wherever there is a drill shed, particularly in the large cities, it would pay to encourage physical training among our young soldiers." We quite agree with our correspondent. It has been too much the fashion in the past to regard the many costly buildings known as "drill sheds" as sacred to the use which that name implies. Each such building might, without harm to anything and with great advantage to the militia, be transformed into a comfortable and inviting all-the-year-round rendezvous or club house for such men as are willing to attend at the times prescribed for drill to qualify themselves for efficient military service.

A bill was recently introduced in the United States House of Representatives to incorporate "The Military Order of America," and providing: "That in view of the great truths, that Almighty God, the ruler of nations, has cemented the United States of America in the blood of more than a hundred battles, made of enemies in war friends in peace, and that all the participants in the late war of the rebellion will soon be mustered on the far shores of the infinite, the object, purposes and powers of said corporation shall be, and the same are hereby limited to the erection and provision of a memorial building at the national capital that shall be a suitable monument to the valor, patriotism and fidelity of the American soldier since the days of George Washington, and the establishment therein of a war museum and library; to perfect the fraternization of Appomattox, perpetuate the memories of the heroic dead, strengthen the renewed bonds of union between the States, to educate our children so as to forever insure the nation from the perils of another civil war, from any cause, and purposes fraternal, charitable, loyal, and historical, in no sense partizan."

The *Progrès Militaire* has a long article on the defence of the United States, suggested by the recent discussion of the fisheries question. After stating that the United States have nothing to fear on the land side, either from Mexico or Canada, our French contemporary criticises the recent declaration of Secretary Whitney that the United States need not fear to measure themselves with their mother country, inasmuch as the naval genius of the Americans would soon enable them to defend their harbours from bombardment, while their fast cruisers would soon play havoc with the British commercial navy. "With time and money," says the *Progrès Militaire*, "a good defensive position could be no doubt secured, but this has yet to be done."