

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Major W. A. Browne, commanding the Administrative Battalion of Presidency Volunteers of Calcutta, India, has applied to Col. Bacon, Secretary of the D. R. A., for particulars of the method by which the Canadians select and send their teams to Wimbledon, in view of the fact that the Indian Volunteers are endeavouring to arrange to send a team this year, when our rules would form a most useful guide. It is to be hoped our Indian cousins will succeed in their laudable efforts to send a team from that distant country; it would not only help to strengthen the ties that bind together the various parts of the Empire but it would do our Canadian team good by forcing them in friendly rivalry to look even more sharply to their laurels than they have hitherto done.

An enthusiastically national correspondent suggests that, now that Col. Hewett is being promoted out of the command of the Royal Military College at Kingston, it behooves us to advocate the appointment of a Canadian to replace him; but our opinion is that if there is a single place in Canada for which an Imperial officer should be selected this is the one. It has been truly said that no man should teach school for more than ten years, and in like manner no man should receive an appointment to this important command, involving the direction of Canada's future scientific military branches, but one who is fresh from the thorough training which only the Royal Engineers or Royal

Artillery can give, and one who is *au courant* of all the latest ideas of the English scientific training colleges. If Colonel Oliver be not promoted to the command, we hope a new man will be brought from England, and the success of the College affects the British Government so directly that we are convinced that none but a first class man of the stamp we describe would be chosen, if the selection were left to the Imperial authorities.

"Unit's" suggestions are now more practical, though we fear the "travelling expenses" arrangement would not work. All the men would be "special cases" in a very short time. The point where the volunteer boards failed, even where the examinations were strict, was in their lack of opportunity for giving practice in commanding and in instructing; and the reason we insist so strongly on the necessity for military school certificates is that the men cannot go through a course without learning to give commands and to explain movements. The comparison between the two systems is an extensive topic, and one that could not be adequately treated by a short article, but enough points will present themselves to any practical man from these few remarks to amply bear out our position.

But as regards facilities for attending, something might be done. A few years ago a school was held here in which the D. A. G. and B. M., assisted by a couple of school of gunnery n. c. o's, imparted the necessary instruction. In these the course extended over some weeks, and the time of attendance was *after business hours*. We believe a similar plan adopted now in Toronto and Montreal, and in other places if found practicable, would be very popular and successful, if the examinations were only severe enough to be a real test of efficiency.

Again—let the schools be opened to aspirants for positions as well as to actual holders of commissions or of n. c. o. rank. Certificate holders would gravitate into the force as certainly as Newton's apple fell to the ground.

A letter in the *Toronto World* showing the advantages of city battalions over country battalions calls forth a strong but temperately worded rejoinder from the *Victoria Warder*. The latter is not at all inclined to concede "that the city corps are better drilled, except in keeping step; or handle the rifle better, or are braver men than the country lads," and thinks that a battalion of farmers would outmarch a city battalion, each being in heavy marching order. A very able article winds up by calling attention to the want of equipment and of head and foot gear, and asks that the stores in hand be served out instead of being kept rotting in the warehouses. While we sympathize with the tenor of the article we do not think that such discussions are for the good of the force. If we are ever to progress it can only be by "a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together," and to fight each other, upon points on which the strongest feelings of each side are enlisted, is