

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Third Year.
VOL. III, No. 31.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY, 1888.

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

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The mother of all soldiers' crimes.
Utility of the R. M. C.
The death of Big Bear.
Proposed cavalry school for Toronto.
An opportunity for the C. P. R.
Canada's position should England go to war.
Stinginess in artillery competition grants.
Inadequate protection of forts.
Montreal's new rifle range.

POETRY.—"Canada."—*The Empire*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"Linch-pin": Attention.—*Milish*.
Titles of Canadian Corps.—*Grenade*.
More information for "Saskat."—*John F. Crean*.

MODERN TACTICS (Con.)—Capt. H. R. Gall.
Chapter IV.—Outposts.

MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

HALF HOURS OFF DUTY.

"A Story of the War of 1812."—*Con.*—*James Hannay*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

THE TIME is but a generation removed since occurrences such as those imagined by the Winnipeg newspaper man whose ideas of Christmas festivities at the Mounted Infantry School were published in a recent issue, would have been as likely as they are now improbable. The Canadian soldier and the powers governing him realize that there are ideals of mortal happiness higher than the exaltation producible by unlimited "drink," and one of the teachings of the Winnipeg school, as in others of our service, is that drunkenness is the mother of all soldiers' crimes.

THE Kingston *Whig* republishes the article on the Royal Military College which appeared in our issue of last week, and also makes the following comment: "The institution has met every fair expectation, and it is sure to find the support of all who know of the work it is performing. Graduates of other colleges drift into occupations which they did not intend to follow, and graduates of the Military College should be allowed to pursue such callings as best suit them without the suspicion spreading that their education has been a failure. As a matter of fact the Royal Military College develops the cadets physically and mentally in a way which fits them for civil as well as military life. They must be students to remain in the college at all, and when they graduate they do honour to it.

BIG BEAR'S death, which occurred at Battleford a couple of weeks ago, removes the last of the three great leaders of the rebellion of 1885. Riel paid upon the gallows the penalty for the terrible bloodshed he had for the second time instigated in the Northwest; his ally Poundmaker died suddenly from excess of good living a short time after the termination of a period of imprisonment for the part he had taken in the disorders. The whole body of volunteers who went to the front were particularly interested in Big Bear, from the fact that before he was captured all three brigades had to join in the pursuit, General Middleton reinforcing General Strange, after the latter's engagement at Frenchman's Butte, and Col. Otter's column moving from Battleford to Turtle Lake to intercept the Bear in his flight from their combined force. This wily Indian was the chief of a nomadic band of Crees who persistently refused to settle on a reserve or make a treaty with the government, preferring to wander about at will to settling down and engaging in agriculture. Their exploits during the rebellion included the capture of

the Hudson Bay post at Frog Lake, and the massacre of several of the residents there; the capture of Fort Pitt, the body of Mounted Police defending it being forced to abandon their charge; the three days' fighting at Frenchman's Butte, and an action with a party of Mounted Police under Major Steele, at Loon Lake.

AGITATION for the establishment of a cavalry school at Toronto has been renewed in the press of that city. A year or so ago the importance of establishing such a school was urgently pressed upon the Government, by the Mayor and Council of Toronto, by officers of that city, and also by a deputation of Ontario Members of Parliament. The Minister of Militia has recommended to the Government that the request be complied with, but financial considerations have blocked the way so far. Canada's strength in cavalry is 1,944, of which number 1,017—more than half—are in Ontario, but the only school where the officers may receive necessary instruction is at Quebec.

OPPORTUNITY for advocacy of a trial of the Canadian Pacific Railway as a transport route for Imperial troops has been afforded by the publication of the proposed movements of regiments from station to station in 1888, and is thus taken advantage of by a correspondent of the *Empire*: "I enclose a clipping from an English paper, by which you will see that in the movements of Imperial troops for 1888 the Northamptonshire Regiment (old 58th), stationed at Hong Kong, is to be moved to Halifax, N. S. It has occurred to me that the Imperial authorities should be induced to test the new route from Hong Kong to Vancouver. By a glance at the map of the world any person can perceive that this route is by far the shortest and least dangerous, instead of the long voyage of sailing through the intricate China sea, the dangerous navigation of the Straits of Sunda, across the Indian ocean, up the Red sea, through the Mediterranean and finally across the Atlantic. Don't you think the C. P. P. might move in the matter?"

DENYING, in a letter to the *Mail*, any responsibility for the recent cable reports concerning the alleged disorganization of the Canadian Militia, Captain Edward Palliser proceeds: "I consider myself most fortunate in having served with the militia in the Northwest as a Canadian officer attached to General Strange's staff, and I always had the highest opinion of the bravery and endurance of your troops. Indeed, I have often stated that Canada could hold her own and gain successes against the United States forces in case of a sudden outbreak of war, this being due to the state of her militia, as compared with the state of the United States militia. American officers agree with me in this opinion, viz., that in the outset the soldierlike qualities, combined with the superior training of the infantry, backed by the numerous and efficient field batteries, would lead to success till great exertions, and enormous expense, had been undertaken by the 60,000,000 over the border. It is satisfactory to know that carelessness about militia training by the dwellers under the Spread Eagle is due to their being