

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

The Popular Organ of the Active Force of the Dominion.

VOL. VI. No. 47.
Price Five Cents.

OTTAWA, DECEMBER 3rd, 1891.

\$2.00 a Year.
\$1.50 in advance.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A great railway corporation is being held up for public censure in England, for conduct towards volunteering very much on a par with that recently attributed to a Canadian Cabinet Minister. The English case is stated by Sir John Burgoyne, in a letter to the press. It appears that recently a man in Sir John's regiment, the 3rd Bedfordshire, applied for work in Derby, and was offered employment by the Midland Railway Company, upon condition that he left the Militia; and, though the man's time would have expired in a few months, this patriotic Company refused to engage him until he produced his discharge from that force, which cost him the sum of £2, as he belonged to the Militia Reserve also.

The *Broad Arrow* thus comments on the case:

"The officials of this company either have never heard of, or decline to recognize until they are compelled, the ordinary duties which a State can demand from every member of society, without trenching on individual liberty. 'The very existence of a nation as an organized community,' says Professor Cairnes, 'is founded upon the recognition of duties obligatory upon all, and which the State may at need enforce.' And this means no more or less than personal service; an obligation which is not at present enforced, simply because the Government tries to maintain a successful voluntary system of recruiting, in lieu. If this voluntary system fails, the fault will rest, for the most part, with the large employers of labour. In no other country but in that of a 'nation of shopkeepers' could such a disgraceful imposition have been made as that put upon this particular militiaman, which is only one of a thousand cases occurring annually. The patriotic appeal made by the Duke of Cambridge to the employers of labour, only last year, to assist the authorities by employing Militiamen, has resulted, therefore, in nothing better than a refusal, on the part of one of the wealthiest of British railway companies, to employ a man because he was serving his country as a militiaman. And it is with a feeling of regret we note that the chairman of the company was at one time in the Royal Horse Guards, and afterwards a Major in the Yeomanry.

The sentiments of indignation expressed above we commend to the attention of our Government, who as a whole must bear the brunt of the hostility shown by any one member to volunteering, so long as they leave him armed with a weapon of offence against the Militia such as the Order-in-Council under recently enacted.

The "professional" soldiers of the mother country are not at all times as complimentary—not to say polite—to their "amateur" brethren-in-arms as they might be, and one result is the occasional appearance in the press devoted to the regular, or professional service, of paragraphs like the following:—

"Three things were noteworthy amongst the guests of the Lord Mayor at the dinner in connexion with the reception of the Elcho Shield. First, an officer in Highland uniform topped, by some inches, everybody else. Secondly, the smart and soldierlike appearance of Lieutenant-General Lyon-Fremantle and Major-General Philip Smith;

and thirdly, the slovenly gait, the hirsute appendages (of sorts), dirty uniforms, round backs, and prominent stomachs of the Volunteer Colonels."

The press of the Volunteer service promptly resented the insulting description of the "thirdly's," and the *Broad Arrow*, which published the alleged slander, thereupon explained that the author was a Volunteer Colonel, who never intended the remarks in question to be taken in such a sense of seriousness. Another Volunteer C. O. is, however, alleged to have written to the *Arrow* endorsing "the well-deserved paragraph" in question, "on the generally unkempt appearance" of his brother officers, and continues:—

"The C. O.s in question evidently glory in an utter disregard of dress regulations, Queen's regulations, and, indeed, every other regulation except their own sweet will, which produced, on the Saturday evening in question, a very motley collection. If these officers were generally imitated by the various corps they command, a grave would soon be dug for the 'Citizen Army.'"

There is not so much heard of late about the cadet movement in this country, but the drill of the boys, we believe, steadily progressing, with little loss of popularity or enthusiasm. In England, the cadet battalions took a prominent part in the recent Lord Mayor's "Show," upon which the *Broad Arrow* remarked:—"These corps are an excellent means of encouraging a taste for military life amongst the future manhood of England, and of counteracting the sedentary tendencies of the day, whereby the health and physique of our town boys are so often totally ruined. There are now three battalions in London, one of which, the 1st Cadet Battalion Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, is composed of *bonâ fide* working boys, and has already supplied many good recruits to the Army. We trust that their appearance on this occasion will give an impetus to their cause throughout the country, and induce many to take up this truly beneficial and patriotic idea."

The *Journal of the Royal United Service Institution* contains an interesting but alarming paper by Surgeon-Captain Perry-Mason, A. M. S., on the effect of the new Lee-Burton bullet in war. Notwithstanding the conclusions to which the Small Arms Committee came to on the subject, his experience and experiments lead him to believe that the modern hardened projectile of small diameter will be very much wanting, under certain circumstances, in "stopping" power. He admits, however, that we *must* have a small bore magazine rifle, and that "military considerations, such as facility for supply of ammunition in the field, and the great increase of effective range, will far outweigh any minor deficiencies in the new weapon as a wound producer."