

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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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.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

A happy new year.
Last year's happenings.
The Indians quiet.
The apathy of regimental surgeons.
Dress regulations wanted.
The medal discussion.
Unmerited distinctions.
The 7th Fusiliers' Christmas Cards.
A proposed attack formation.
Government grants to county rifle associations.
The new military secretary.

CONTRIBUTED.

Reflections on uniform—III.—*Grenade*.
Notions of a noodle—IX.—*Misty*.

PERSONALS.

SYLLABUS FOR THE MILITARY SCHOOLS.—*Continued*.

THE EXAMPLE OF OUR MILITARY COLLEGE.

CAPT. LYDON'S PROPOSED FORMATION FOR ATTACK.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Honors for those who were at the front.
Is the bayonet's day past?
A plea for the canteen tin.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

AMUSEMENTS.
CLEANINGS.

Respecting the Indians the reports of probable trouble are most emphatically denied by the Government. The Bloods and Piegans near McLeod, who were most feared, have had a pow-wow with Colonel Irvine, and express themselves well satisfied with their treatment, and determined to respect the authorities; and contradictions of disquieting reports from other Indian centres have also been made. The Indian Department reports that its agents are issuing full rations daily to all the treaty Indians, and that of itself should be sufficient to insure peace; in fact everything goes to show that Canada is determined in the future, as in the past, to treat her red dependents fairly and keep them in order by just and generous dealings rather than by force of arms.

In our first number we expressed the desire to establish a column in the interests of the medical portion of the service, and nothing would have given us greater pleasure, nor perhaps been productive of more good, than to see such subjects receiving that attention at the hands of our medical confrères that their importance demands. We have been frustrated in this desire, however, by the apathy displayed in all quarters by our Militia surgeons, who appear to take very little, if any, interest in what ought to chiefly concern them, viz.: the development of the medical branch of the Canadian Militia. When the time comes for their services to be called into requisition they are never behindhand in grumbling if they do not find what they want ready at hand, and yet during the many months of the year when they are not called upon in their military capacity they appear to lose all interest in the force, and it is difficult to get them sufficiently enthusiastic to don their regimentals. We should like to see them in all quarters throw a little warmth into their work, and to show in that way that they appreciate their position, which at times becomes a most important one in the eyes of the public, the regiment, and the government.

We have allowed our contributors "Misty" and "Grenade" the utmost latitude in discussing the question of uniform, because we felt that the subject was one of considerable importance, and that it would be to the advantage of the force that the different aspects of the question should be thoroughly ventilated. For ourselves, we would choose a happy mean between something more showy than the "Noodle" advocates and less expensive than the present regulation; and the very diverse views enunciated plainly show the necessity for full and authoritative dress regulations for our own use, based on some known principle, and not liable to constant change.

The medal question has also received a full share of attention, and probably more space than it deserved. With this week's letter from "The Odd File," in answer to "Ottawa," we must beg to close the correspondence on this subject unless some entirely new points are forthcoming, at least until the medals are actually distributed. The whole discussion seems to have created a certain amount of ill-feeling, and to have subserved no useful purpose, especially as the Imperial authorities have taken the matter into their own hands, and will probably regulate it in accordance with their own established rules.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

In entering upon a new year it gives our management the greatest pleasure to wish to each and all of our readers much happiness and success, and to thank them for the ready support accorded to us. We have every reason to be gratified with our present position, and foresee a long and close connection with the Militia force in the time to come. Our effort has so evidently been appreciated that we will be enabled to put forth greater efforts in the future to make the GAZETTE interesting and instructive. Again we wish all our readers a Happy New Year.

The year just closed has been a most eventful one to the militia force of Canada, certainly the most important in fifteen years, and we had an idea of devoting some space to a review of the events of principal importance to the force; but on second thoughts we changed our mind. The outbreak of the insurrection last March, the progress of the troops sent to suppress it and their brilliant success; the doings of the Wimbledon team; and the competitions on the several rifle ranges of the country, culminating in the Dominion meeting here; the changes in the Militia list caused by retirements and promotions, and the irremediable losses caused especially by the insurrection, from the death of Col. Williams downwards, are all so fresh in our memories that they need no recapitulation. No, let the GAZETTE as a whole stand as a record of what our Militia did last year.