



THE
**CANADIAN
 MILITARY
 GAZETTE.**

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

It has often been a source of regret to Canadian shots that more is not done in the way of encouraging shooting with more elaborate and accurate weapons than the ordinary service arm. The question of encouraging the use of rifles with telescopic sights is now being discussed in England. A leading service paper recently said on this subject: "It is pretty generally agreed that the time has come for a reconsideration by the National Rifle Association of the conditions governing the competitions at Bisley with the "military breech-loader," and it is trusted that the correspondence on the subject, started in the Times by Captain Dutton Hunt, will lead to some practical result. Some of the suggestions made by Mr. Frederike Lowe—the well-known shot and chairman of the South London Rifle Club—in the course of

his long letter are considered somewhat startling, more particularly the one that a small percentage of the marksmen in every regiment in the service and all mounted infantry should be armed with a rifle or carbine fitted with a telescopic sight for special service; but the facts adduced by him should cause our military authorities to carefully consider the matter though they have hitherto, Mr. Lowe asserts, declined to entertain it. If so long ago as the American Civil war rifles with telescopic sights were used on both sides, and if a certain officer in the Indian Army has found that with a second-rate American sporting rifle fitted with a telescopic sight he has been able to do most effective service against the Dacoits in Burmah, what, it is asked, should hinder our authorities from making a limited experiment with such sights, more particularly as they can be readily detached from the rifle and carried, in a similar manner to a bayonet, in a leather case, and the weapon itself used in the ordinary manner?

by the way, where in the world did the editor of the Quebec Chronicle hear that "appointments to posts in the Imperial Army are denied to those of our Canadian young men who study at Kingston." This will be news to people who have any knowledge at all of militia matters, for of course, commissions in the army have been for years open to competition among the officers of the militia. True, officers have to show their qualifications by passing sufficiently exacting examinations; but for nothing. But the army is open nevertheless, and several good officers have graduated into the Army from the Militia and political influence and personal favor

The Toronto and Hamilton militia corps deserve all credit for their splendid demonstration of practical soldiering on Thanksgiving Day. These annual

field days must do a great deal of good to the Toronto militia themselves; but they also tend to do a great deal of good to the whole service, as the newspaper accounts of those really interesting and exciting events must prompt other corps throughout the country to go and do likewise. It is for this reason that we devote so much of the space of this number to one of the best popular reports of the day's proceedings. Already there is talk of trying to arrange for manoeuvres for the Montreal brigade next Queen's Birthday.

When the great practical value of field work is considered it is hard to account for the Government's refusal to bear at least a portion of the cost of field manoeuvres in the vicinity of every large militia centre every year. Nothing is better calculated to interest the men in militia work, and of course the training of our city corps cannot be, by any stretch of imagination, considered perfect without it. A double necessity then exists for this field work and the Toronto and Hamilton corps deserve every credit for demonstrating what can be done in one day at comparatively little expense.

The first portion of General Middleton's article in the United Service Magazine on the suppression of the Northwest Rebellion will be read with great interest by members of the militia force. Our old general has evidently started to give a thoroughly impartial review of the campaign, and his completed article will doubtless be a valuable contribution to Canadian history, for no narrative of the campaign so far published has been worthy of consideration as a history. Sir Sir Fred's ill-treatment by the politician of this Canada of ours does not appear to have had any effect of turning him against the country's institutions,