

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Third Year.  
VOL. III, No. 30.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 26th JANUARY, 1888.

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

## CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Major E. G. Prior, M.P.  
Experimenting for rifle improvements.  
Our volunteers' time a consideration.  
Prosperity of the Dominion Rifle Association.  
An Empire's central shooting ground.  
United States impressions of Lundy's Lane.

### THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

An indispensable training school—Its graduates' services to Canada.

### MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 1, of 12th January, 1888.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Miniature Medal Clasps.—*Canada First.*  
Garrison Artillery.—*Driving Band.*

### MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

POETRY—"My Old Cape."—*F. T. Sidney.*

### HALF HOURS OFF DUTY.

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

### MISCELLANEOUS.

## Current Topics.

AS expected, Major E. G. Prior, of the B. C. G. A. has this week been elected by acclamation member for Victoria, B.C., in the House of Commons. Major Prior was born in Yorkshire, England, his father being Rev. Henry Prior. He settled in British Columbia about sixteen years ago. From 1873 to 1878 he was Mining Engineer and Surveyor for the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, and for two years was Government Inspector of Mines. He was elected for Victoria to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia at the general election of 1886, and resigned his seat in the provincial legislature on becoming a candidate for the vacancy in the Commons caused by Mr. Shakespeare's acceptance of office as postmaster of Victoria. The militia of the province will have an able representative in Major Prior.

THE action last recommended by the Imperial Small Arms Committee for trial, while differing from the Lee has some parts of that action in it, and is combined with a five-groove progressive spiral rifling attributed to the gunmaker Metford of Gloucester; the bore being .303. Two or three hundred of these rifles will be manufactured and issued to the troops for trial, as was done with the Lee-Burton, afterwards condemned. Captain C. Greville Harston, of Toronto, who went to England some months ago in response to a summons from the committee, is reported to be still engaged for them in working out his plan of conversion of the Martini, and is completing a hopper magazine intended to work in conjunction with his carrier. It is likely that a number of rifles on his plan will also be manufactured and issued for trial.

WOULD-BE reorganizers of the militia force all appear to leave out of their calculation one very important consideration—that is, the interests of the rank and file. Nearly every scheme suggested has included a proposition to double or at least largely increase the number of days of annual drill, but it is extremely likely that volunteering would quickly lose its popularity were further demands to be made upon time without more than the merely nominal recompense at present paid. Canada would not profit much by drilling for a few weeks annually a body of men whose only interest in the matter was that they were being paid a certain wage. The most desirable class of volunteers are those whose time is too valuable to enable them to leave their occupations for three or four weeks at a stretch to go into a camp of instruction. But many men who cannot attend for twenty-four days each year, or even every second year, could spare half that time annually. If, then, there is to be an increase in the drill appropriation it should be expended in

instructing the whole of the present force for twelve days each year, rather than half the number of men twenty-four days annually or the whole number the longer period every second year. The young men of Canada have an abundance of patriotism, but it is rather too much to ask that they should shoulder such a large proportion of the cost of the national defence as would fall upon them were the drill period extended.

"CONTINUED popularity and prosperity" is what the council of the Dominion Rifle Association will have to report to the members at the annual meeting to take place at Ottawa in March. During the past three years there has been an increase of more than 25 per cent. in the number of competitors attending and over 50 per cent. in the amount of money offered in prizes, which in the year reviewed was \$6,750, the number of competitors entering for this being 363—high-water mark for both. The competitors in 1884 numbered 287, in 1885 302, and in 1886 332. Every province in the Dominion has for the past two years had representative teams at the prize meeting. The council still have cause for regret that the membership of the association is so small, there being no increase in the year. It may be here stated that competitors need only be members by affiliation, paying a fee of \$1 each besides the affiliation fees paid by the associations to which they belong. Full members, who pay a fee of \$2, alone have the right of attendance at the members' meeting, and it is remarkable how many of those who take part annually in the prize competitions save the extra dollar and forego the privileges of a voice in the management of the association, which is left to a comparatively small number of enthusiastic spirits.

WIMBLEDON'S prospects seem brighter just at present. The Duke of Westminster, one of the founders of the National Rifle Association, who has joined with those making an effort to secure the retention of the now famous common as the prize meeting place advocates the purchase of the land claimed to have been rendered dangerous for tenantry on account of bullets falling upon it. He considers that "for so national an object the country might very well afford to buy up this property," as the meetings "can be held nowhere else to such advantage as at Wimbledon." The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association is about to join with the National Association to petition the Imperial Government on behalf of the movement to preserve Wimbledon as the annual meeting place of the representative marksmen of the Empire.

A PLEASANT surprise is perhaps in store for the promoters of the Lundy's Lane memorial fund, being no less than a proposition that patriotic "American" (i.e., United States) citizens should chip in. Noticing the appeal published in this paper a few weeks ago, the United States *Army and Navy Journal* says: "A Canadian society, known as the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, issued a circular a year ago calling on the Canadians to contribute to the erection of a monument at Lundy's Lane, where, on the 25th of July, 1814, the American forces under General Brown encountered those under the British General