

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Annual meeting of the O.A.A.
Regimental records again.
Col. Powell's services.
The long course certificate.
The permanent corps grievance.
Cavalry bridles.
Courses of lectures.
New Year's wishes.

PERSONALS.

BARQUHARSON'S RANGE FINDER.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

SELECTED.

The repeating rifle.
The status of the Canadian force.
Cavalry remounts.
Capt. Page's services.
The military governor of to-day.
Modern languages in the army.

MESS ROOM YARNS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Collecting regimental items.
Permanent corps grievances.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

OUR TRADING COLUMN.

Comment and Criticism.

THE annual general meeting of the members of the Ontario artillery association will be held at the Rossin House, Toronto, on Thursday, the 13th January instant, at 2 o'clock p.m. sharp, for election of officers and the transaction of business generally. Certain proposed alterations in the constitution will also be considered at this meeting. The adjourned meeting of council will be held at the same place at noon of same day.

THE "affinity of great minds" is illustrated by the letter we publish this week suggesting that the records of corps should be kept in the shape of clippings in regimental scrap books. The same suggestion we made editorially last week, and a day or two later received the letter we now publish from a point far east in the Dominion before the writer could have seen our comment. The suggestion we think so good that we are glad to have it spontaneously endorsed by an outsider, and again to urge it on the attention of commanding officers.

YESTERDAY'S Ottawa Citizen states that there is a good prospect of Col. Powell being gazetted to the new distinguished service order, and we sincerely hope our contemporary has some authoritative grounds for the statement. We have several times spoken of the good work performed during the rebellion by the staff officers of the militia at head-

quarters. The campaign was a great success, and a large measure of that success may be attributed to the indefatigable energy with which the action of the troops at the front was seconded by prompt attention departmentally to their manifold requirements; in doing this Colonel Powell was conspicuous, and it seems desirable that efficient service of this kind should be recognized equally with service before the enemy, which, while more prominently before the public and more exciting, than office work, is not one whit more necessary to a successful issue.

IN our issue of the 9th ultimo we had something to say about the annual course in engineering for militia officers, at the Royal Military College. There seems to be some discrepancy in the regulations, which throws a doubt upon the question whether any officer possessing a short course certificate, obtained after a three months' attendance at a school of instruction, is eligible for this course, as one paragraph seems to indicate that it is only intended to be part of a twelve months' long course. However, paragraph, 521 to 526, R. and O., embodied in the regulations for the schools of military instruction, issued in pamphlet form last year, seem to indicate that any officer possessing a short course certificate can enter, and it is sincerely to be hoped that this view of the case will be accepted by the Department, for it is so desirable that our officers should keep up with the improvements of the age, that every facility should be given them to obtain additional instruction rather than obstacles put in their way.

ONLY those who have no settled employment or who are of independent means would be able to spare the time to take a twelve months' course, whereas many of our best officers and these are usually the men whose time is of the most valuable would make an effort to attend for three months, if by so doing they obtained the necessary certificate; consequently, we sincerely hope that the regulations, if they need any change, will be changed in this way, and also that arrangements should be made for having more than one course during the year, as we before suggested. Once more we would urge every qualified officer who can spare three months from the 10th March next to apply for admission for the long course; he can in no other way learn so much, and so much of sterling value, in so short a time.

"VOUCHER'S" letter once more voices the great grievance of the officers of the permanent corps; the almost absolute absence of promotion and the fact that although they have more responsible duties and presumably are better qualified than officers of the ordinary active force, they have no seniority over them; so that it often happens that a green youngster who has perhaps attended one twelve days' camp may take command over a man with as many years of constant service. The instances cited in "Voucher's" letter are not mentioned, we take it, in any spirit of fault-finding with those promotions,—if we thought so we would at once join issue, for we can readily see that the occupation of certain officers should carry with it fitting rank,—but are brought forward to show how in other places promotion can take place without any