

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Fifth Year.
VOL. IV, No. 27.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 11th JULY, 1889.

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

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Topics of the Week.

Under the head of "The Rifle," there may be seen in this paper, week by week, evidence of the strong hold rifle shooting, as a pastime, has obtained upon the people of the North-west, the rivalry there being between the district associations rather than regimental, as the Territories have no militia. The riflemen appear to be interesting the whole community in their sport, for the latest intimation is of a lecture by Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin, Eastern Assiniboia's witty and eloquent representative in the Commons, to be delivered at Regina, in aid of the funds of the Assiniboia Provincial Association.

The New England Militia have found a new champion in "The Volunteer," a monthly magazine, No. 3 of which has just come to hand. It contains forty-eight octavo pages of excellent reading matter, and bids fair to be popular, not only within its constituency, but outside as well. Its articles are well written, instructive and interesting. It is published at Boston, Mass. Simultaneously with the appearance of "The Volunteer," there comes another new publication—"The Militiaman," a journal also at its third number, and to be published monthly, at Holyoke, Mass. It is "devoted to the interests of the Militia of the New England States," and, apparently, will seek to promote such interests chiefly by the prompt publication of news of the movements, wishes and achievements of that body, and able editorial advocacy or criticism. We wish our new contemporaries the success their manifest enterprise deserves.

The victories achieved last week by the team of Massachusetts riflemen in England have puzzled not a few who have not taken all the circumstances into account. The contestants have not been by any means on even terms, for the Massachusetts men have on their Springfield rifles wind gauges and aperture sights; while the Englishmen used plain Martinis, with open sights and no wind gauges, and were thus at a considerable disadvantage. The teams consisted of twelve men on each side, and they fired at 200, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots at each, with two sighting shots allowed. The standing position has been used at 200 yards. The scoring has not been remarkably high on either side, averaging for the five matches fired last week 88 points for Massachusetts, and 82 for the English teams. In the friendly match in which our Wimbledon team competed on Thursday last, and in which plain Martini rifles were used, the ten Canadians averaged 90.6 points per man, and the team of Cambridge volunteers 86.5 points. This latter match was, however, with the kneeling position used at 200 yards—an advantage of perhaps three or four points per man over the standing position.

In the interests of the future of the militia of Canada, scarce any more useful work could be done than that amongst the boys of the public schools, so carefully carried on in several cities. The adjutant of the Twelfth Battalion, Capt. J. T. Thompson, has achieved surprising results with the boys of Toronto; and now Capt. W. B. T. Macaulay, of the Sixth Fusiliers, is to the fore at the head of a well-drilled class from the High School at Montreal. The report of their inspection appeared in last issue. Capt. Macaulay has applied for, and will no doubt receive, permission to form a cadet corps at the High School, and this will be directed by him. Upon stipulated conditions as to the constitution of the drill companies, and the uniform to be worn, the Militia Department will furnish free to universities, colleges, normal and high schools, the arms and accoutrements necessary for instruction; and the Department will also detail an instructor to attend at each school, at the public expense, for one month in each year, or longer if required.

A curious, if unhappy, incident occurred recently to the Royal Jersey Artillery. After the annual inspection, the regiment, when about to be marched back to the arsenal, was ordered to form column by the left, so that A Battery found themselves at the rear of the column instead of in their usual place at the head. On this, the battery hesitated to form in column, and on the order to advance general disorder manifested itself among the men to the extent that only the two leading sections finally followed the column. Then Sergeant Cooper, who acted as left guide, instead of guiding the battery in obedience to orders, left his post and went towards the men, "and by his words, gestures and example, in defiance of all discipline and of the reiterated orders of the captain of the battery, as well as of the majors, he exerted himself to prevent the men from obeying, and raised a mutiny which appears to have been premeditated." The battery had misbehaved for a similar cause at a regimental parade held a short time before. The sergeant and six gunners were accordingly charged in the police court with insubordination, and after a lengthy trial were sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine. The sergeant got eight days, the two worst of the gunners, 6 and 4 days respectively, and the four others, 48 hours each. The four day man wept as he heard his sentence, the bravado he had exhibited on parade having deserted him. The punishment awarded should serve as a wholesome lesson to those superior persons who seek to enjoy the volunteer's privileges and share in his honours, without submitting to the necessary discipline.

The art of war, considered as the means of acquiring power, or preserving power already acquired, stands at the head of human sciences. It is the science of princes; and where the object of it is legitimate, that is, national protection and defence against unjust aggression, it is a generous and noble act.—*Jackson.*

In an article on the visit of the King of Italy to Berlin, the *London Times* thus sums up the military situation in Europe: "It appears to be tacitly assumed that any disturbance of European tranquillity has, as a matter of fact, been rendered extremely improbable by the action of Germany and her allies. The nervous apprehension of hostilities from which Europe suffered while the Bulgarian question was in an acute stage has given place to a feeling of considerable confidence."