



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. IX.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1875.

No. 9.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

At a meeting of the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association held in the Printing Committee-room of the House of Commons, on Thursday afternoon, Lieutenant Colonel Gzowski was unanimously re-elected President. For Vice-Presidents—Allan Gilmour, Esq., Ottawa; Lieutenant Col C J Brydges, Montreal; Lieutenant Colonel Hon A E Boisjoly, Sackville; Lieutenant Col R A McKinlay, Halifax; Hon D A Smyth, Fort Garry; Hon R W W Carrill, Victoria. Auditors—John Lington, Esq., Auditor General, and T D Harrington, Esq., Deputy Receiver General, Ottawa. Treasurer—Lieutenant Colonel Macpherson, Militia Department, Ottawa. Secretary—Lieutenant Colonel Stuart, Militia Department Ottawa. A committee composed of Lieutenant Colonels Gilmour, Worsley, and Beer, Captain Mason, and the President, were appointed to select the team for Wimbledon this year. The selection to be made from the names sent in by the Provincial Associations.

The Executive Committee to make arrangements for the annual competitive matches of 1875 were chosen as follows:—Lieutenant Colonel Brauer, Ottawa; Lieut Colonel Chamberlain, C.M.G., Ottawa; Capt. Mason, Hamilton; Lieutenant Colonel Ross, G. G. Foot Guards, Ottawa; Lieut. Colonel Macpherson, Ottawa; Lieutenant Colonel Stuart, Ottawa; Lieutenant Colonel Jackson, D A G Militia, Brockville; Lieut. Colonel Fletcher, C.M.G., D A G Militia, Montreal; Lieutenant Colonel Beer, 74th Btt, Sussex, N B; Lieutenant Colonel Worsley, Brigade Major, Montreal; Major Macdonald, Ottawa; Captain Tilton, G G Foot Guards, Ottawa; W McKay Wright, Esq. A. P., F B A, Ottawa; Lieutenant Colonel Egleson, Ottawa. The meeting then adjourned.

The Hon. Mr Vail, Minister of Militia, on Wednesday, the 21th ult., moved the House into Committee of the Whole, to consider the following amendments to the Militia Act:—

1. That it is expedient to provide that the officer to be appointed to command the militia of the Dominion of Canada under Bill No. 4 "to amend the Dominion Militia and Defence Acts" shall be paid at the rate of four thousand dollars per annum in full of all pay and allowances.

2. That it is expedient to provide that the Adjutant General of Militia at headquarters, to be appointed under the said bill, shall be paid at the rate of twenty-six hundred dollars per annum.

These resolutions elicited a discussion of some length, but were finally carried.

On the 23rd, the Minister of Militia also laid before Parliament the Annual Report of the State of the Militia, which we will lay before our readers shortly; in the meantime we give a synopsis of it. The report is written by Major General Smyth, and contains several recommendations of change. He recommends that a company of engineers and three companies of infantry be stationed at New Fort, Toronto, one at Ottawa, and one in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick; each to have a highly proficient instructor from the Royal Army, but otherwise officered from the Militia. He also recommends that the adjutant of every battalion should be a regular army officer. A responsible officer would be permanently at headquarters of the battalion; camps of exercise would then become of real and substantial value. In his late journey he came to the conclusion that the arms in many cases are badly cared for. He had found the military store depots at London, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal and Quebec in good order. There are at present 60,000 rifles in the country and he recommends that 60,000 more be purchased as soon as the funds of the country will permit. The price of the rifles is two pounds ten shillings. The amount of powder in store is 200,000 pounds. The clothing in many cases has not been well taken care of. The Active Militia number 42,125; Reserve Militia, 700,000. There are 16 Field Batteries, 6 of which are already armed with the most approved new rifled field gun. The gunnery schools at Kingston and Quebec are praised for their efficiency. He recommends that the district staffs should only be appointed for five years. The larger number of persons with military titles throughout the Dominion is deprecated. The Kingston Military College will prove of great use, and will produce a scientific class of officers.

In reply to the Hon. Peter Mitchell, on the 17th inst., the Premier said the Pacific Railway would cross the middle of Lake Manitoba. At that part the lake was very narrow, so that it could be bridged and thus give a direct line between that portage and Fort Tilly with a saving of about thirty or forty miles in the length of the road.

The steamer *Sarmatian* brings out 200 laborers, and 700 will follow by the steamer of the 4th March.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company have declared a dividend at the rate of 2s sterling per £100 on postal and military service bonds for the half year ending February 8th.

A fire in College Street, Montreal, destroyed \$35,000 worth of property on the 23rd.

The Montreal Curling Club beat Hamilton and Toronto three rinks by thirteen shots on the 24th ult.

The Quarterly Cup of the eighth battalion rifles was fired for on Monday last, and won for the third time by Sergeant E. Hawkins.

At the close of a lecture by Father Chiniquy at Cote-street Church, Montreal, on Tuesday night, there was a row of a rather alarming character. Sticks and firearms were freely used, but no serious damage seems to have been done.

Mr. John Molson has been elected President of Molson's Bank, at Montreal, in place of Wm. Molson, deceased.

The last number of the *Yarmouth, N. S., Herald* contains a list of vessels lost between the years 1760 and 1874, inclusive; by whom they were owned, the master's name, and how and where lost. The whole forming a valuable means of reference. The number of vessels lost in the above period of 114 years was 530, of which 82 were wrecked and all on board lost.

A telegram from Terra Haute mentions several casualties to vessels by the sudden rise of the Wabash River, which had risen to fourteen feet in twenty-four hours.

St. John, P.Q. merchants are, owing to delays on the G. T. Railway, getting their goods from Montreal by sleigh for which they pay 13 cents per cwt., as against 17 cents charged by the Company.

It is said that on the 20th ult., there were no less than 100 cases of small pox in Watertown, N. Y. The disease has been caused by an importation of Chinese rags used at the paper mills. The disease is of a virulent kind, and a perfect panic prevails among the inhabitants. Many persons are sending their families out of town.

The House of Commons has declared John Mitchell ineligible to a seat in that body on the ground that he is a convicted felon.

At Kiel five German war vessels have been ordered in readiness for immediate service, to sail, it is supposed, for Spanish waters, if there is no longer delay in rendering satisfaction for the *Gustaw* outrage.

General Wolsely has sailed for Natal.

The Bill for the organization of a Senate has at length passed the French Assembly.

John Mitchell has issued an address to the electors of Tipperary, announcing himself as a candidate.