

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

PARLIAMENT having been dissolved, and the electoral writs being returnable on the 25th April, it will be May before the new House will meet. The annual meetings of the Dominion Rifle and Artillery Associations are held on the third Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, after the opening of the House, so that this year they will come about at the end of May. As, however, this will be too late for the transaction of much of the business customarily left for the annual meeting and newly chosen Council and Executive, it would appear to be a necessity that the present officers should take the responsibility of whatever needs to be done, in order that there may be no hitch in the season's programme. The Canadian Military Rifle League Executive will similarly be forced to take action without waiting for the annual meeting.

THE formidable array of argument which our correspondent "C. F. C." makes against the enrolment of unqualified persons, even provisionally, as officers in the Militia is in harmony with the contention so often made in these columns in favour of opening the schools to candidates for commissions otherwise than by compelling them to attend as privates or non-commissioned officers. From experience we all know that gentlemen ambitious to be officers will not attend the schools in any capacity necessitating their assumption, even temporarily, of the different though highly honourable social standing of other than the commissioned ranks, and the fact being such, circumstances should be adapted accordingly. We have time and again argued in favour of the cadet system, and this once introduced we believe the number of persons seeking officers' appointments without qualification would be greatly reduced.

THE disarrangement of plans consequent upon the unexpected general election, will no doubt cause a postponement of such improvements in the plan of training of our militia as were in contemplation. For instance, it did not appear hopelessly improbable that at the next session a sufficient sum would have been set apart for drill to enable the whole force to be called out this year, but now the session will be so late that no departure of this kind is likely to be sug-

gested; and even were the suggestion made and adopted time would scarcely permit of the proper arrangements being made for holding the big camps this year. Perhaps Parliament will not have prorogued by Dominion Day, and in a generous mood will vote liberally in aid of the inaugural military tournament of the annual series suggested to be held at the Capital!

THE fiction writers whose vivid imaginations help so materially to make entertaining the columns of the daily press in the absence of exciting occurrences in real life, have lately put in circulation the story that Lord Wolseley has intimated his desire "to go to Canada." The *Army and Navy Gazette* states that while the story "has caused surprise and stimulated curiosity," there appears to be no truth in it.

"OUTING" for February contains another chapter of the series on the Canadian Militia, from the pen of Capt. Thos. S. Blackwell. It deals mainly with the Montreal corps, and is handsomely illustrated with portraits of the several commanding officers, and a full page picture of the crack shooting team of the Victoria Rifles and the Carlslake Trophy which they so handsomely won at the P. Q. R. A. matches last summer. The number, to which we will refer at greater length in another issue, is one of special interest to militiamen, and all such having perused the opening chapters will await with interest the rest of this series.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE.

The annual general meeting of the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, was held on the 26th ult., under the presidency of Lieut.-Col. W. D. Otter. There was a good attendance of members, not of local officers only, but representatives of the forces all over the Dominion. Amongst those present were Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Lieut.-Col. Scoble (Winnipeg), Lieut.-Col. Macdonald (Guelph), Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Mr. Sheriff Mowat, Majors Mason, Mead, McSpadden and Sankey, Capts. Harkom (Richmond, Que.), Shields, Mutton, Manley, Murray, Brown, Trotter, Symons, Stinson, Mount, Mr. Crean, Capt. McGee, Messrs. K. Miller, Fleming, &c., &c., Myles (Treasurer) and Irving (Secretary).

The Secretary presented the annual report, which reads as follows:—

In presenting the first annual report of the Canadian Military Institute the committee begs, as briefly as possible, to give a short history of its formation.

On the 14th January, 1890, a meeting of a number of