

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Since our last issue the whole British Empire has gone into mourning because of the untimely death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, whom in the national course of events, he would have succeeded upon the throne. The young prince appears to have been very popular with all classes, and of late a great deal of public attention had been bestowed on him, because of his expected marriage with the Princess Mary of Teck, which was to have taken place in March. An official order for the guidance of the Canadian Militia was issued on Friday last by the Adjutant-General, as follows:—"A general mourning for H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale having been ordered throughout Her Majesty's colonies for a period of six weeks, a band of black crape, 3½ inches wide, will be worn by officers in all orders of dress, on the left arm during that period from this date. Bands will not be played, and flags at all flag stations will be flown at half-mast until sunset on Thursday, the 21st inst."

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Death has been particularly busy of late with prominent members of our Militia, and this week we have to add the name of Lt.-Col. A. A. Miller, a former commanding officer of the Queen's Own Rifles, and in whose charge the regiment went through the North-West service. Twice this month have the Queen's Own been called upon to mourn the death of an ex-commanding officer, but in the first instance Lt. Col. Gillmor had completed the allotted span of three score years and ten, whilst Lt.-Col. Miller was only in his fiftieth year.

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It is remarkable that of the three large contingents of the Battleford column of 1885, the three officers respectively in command have since died. The tragic end of Major Short, of B Battery, is still

fresh in the public mind; Lt.-Colonel Lawrence W. Herchmer, of the Mounted Police, died very suddenly last month, and Lt.-Col. Miller's death makes the third.

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As an event worthy of special encouragement, we desire to call attention to the third annual revolver match of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Revolver Association, which will take place on Tuesday, 2nd February, from 7 to 11 p.m., in the Drill Hall, Toronto. The Association would like to arrange telegraphic matches for that date with any other corps in a position to compete, the teams to consist of six members. The Secretary, Mr. N. B. Sarsion (Ontario Chambers, Toronto), will furnish any information desired.

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In this connection we may fittingly print the following extract from the annual report of the South London Rifle Club, which ought to be a source of much encouragement to those who are attempting to popularise revolver shooting here:—"The increased number of entries and the subscriptions received during the year have resulted in a profit, after payment of all expenses, of about £17, so that for the third year in succession the profit made on revolver shooting has enabled the committee to meet the deficit on rifle shooting, and so keep the club out of debt. The committee therefore submit that the decision arrived at in 1886 to extend the sphere of operations of the club to include revolver as well as rifle shooting was a wise one."

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The same club have some interesting recommendations to make respecting the new service revolver, as follows:—

"Inasmuch as the new service revolver shown in the Military Exhibition, in 1890, embraced two improvements, the buckhorn rear-sight and 'Metford' rifling, suggested by a member of the club, the committee respectfully claim that the South London Rifle Club has rendered good service to the State, but, on the other hand, the committee

venture to repeat what they said in their 1889 report, viz., 'that the powder charges of the new service revolver is too light to stop a man effectually at close quarters; that the barrel is too short for accurate shooting, and the whole weapon is too light for efficient service in the field, and they contend that it is a mistake to sacrifice the general all-round efficiency of a weapon capable of doing what Mr. Ira Paine and others have done with the revolver (at distances up to 200 yards) to the mere question of portability.'"

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The officer commanding the 14th Battalion, Princess of Wales Own Rifles, Lieut.-Col. H. R. Smith, has just been appointed Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons, a promotion from the post of Deputy-Sergeant, which he has held for many years. The new Deputy will be Lieut. D. W. Cameron, of the Queen's Own Rifles. The House of Commons evidently is not of the opinion that its employees should keep out of the militia, and may be expected to sympathise with any member who criticises the Order in Council which permits the heads of departments to interfere with volunteering on the part of their subordinates. It is noteworthy, too, that the Provincial Governments encourage the volunteering spirit in their employees. In Ontario this fact is especially marked. We have not the data from which to attempt anything like a full list, but amongst the names of Provincial officials which prominently suggest themselves are Lieut.-Col. Jones, of the 38th, Lieut.-Col. Clarke, of the 30th, Major Delamere, of the Queen's Own Rifles; and, the most recent appointment, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, of the Queen's Own, who has just been made Inspector of Registry Offices.

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In the bye-election in Glengarry last week, Major R. R. McLennan, who had been unseated for a trifling irregularity on the part of an agent, was re-elected by a larger majority than received in his first contest—a happy evidence of growing popularity amongst his constituents. Major McLennan was, during his one ses-