

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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Comment and Criticism.

THE production in our columns lately of two or three reminiscences and discussions about the past history of corps, suggests the advisability of every regiment keeping a full record of its own doings, remembering that incidents which at the time seem trivial, may, in the light of later events, assume considerable importance. Besides the official order books, which by the way are oftentimes very negligently kept by the adjutants, particularly in the case of rural battalions, it would be a good plan to make the adjutant, or some officer "antiquarian inclined," keep all the general orders issued, and have them bound periodically, and also have scrap books for newspaper cuttings alluding in any way to the corps, and in which should be entered every item of regimental news. It is wonderful how interesting such a collection becomes after a few years, even to a casual reader, and its value to a historian only a historian can fully appreciate. Will not each commanding officer who reads this establish the system at once in his own corps?

If you were to preserve your files of this paper you would find them also valuable as a record of the military progress of the country. Many of our subscribers have done so, others wish they had, and are continually writing to us for missing copies, which in a few cases we have been unable to furnish. Depend upon it, you will often refer back to your previous volumes with profit, if you keep them. It will be

noticed that one advertizer is to-day asking for missing volumes of the old *Volunteer Review*, which we are very doubtful about his being able to secure, but a complete file of that paper would be an invaluable aid in compiling any sketch of the history of a corps between the years 1867 and 1875, or the limits of its period of publication. Keep, then, in each battalion, at least one file of the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, and have each year's numbers bound as they are completed. We publish a title page and index for that purpose at the completion of a volume.

THE English service papers have begun to discuss the details of the military demonstration at the coming jubilee, and some of them almost seem to take it for granted that India and the colonies will be represented. There seems to be no doubt that a large contingent could be got in Canada, if the government would give them the least encouragement; and the attitude of the Royal Scots, of Montreal, towards the question may best be described by the phrase "red hot." They are bound to go if anyone does. As we said before the difficulties appear to be that the government could not well aid one special corps, and that a mixed representation could not make a satisfactory display. However, if anything is to be done it seems high time that ways and means were being discussed.

THIS week's general orders relate exclusively to the Royal Military College, and give details of the staff, with their official titles and rank, pay and allowances, as well as other details respecting the interior economy of the institution, and the scale of food for the gentlemen cadets. In all this we believe there is little or nothing new; it is merely putting into official form what the college arrangements have grown into, and of course it will in this way tend to efficiency.

THE suggestion by a rifleman in our correspondence column, respecting the wearing of white gloves, is opportune, now that the festive season is in full blast; but we are inclined to think this variation for the dress regulations is a regimental matter, for we remember that another rifle corps—was it the Rifle Brigade—adopted lavender gloves for dancing. However, it is just as well to have these little minutiae reduced to print.

SPEAKING of dress regulations, we would draw attention to the general order which came out on that subject on the 9th January, 1885, and which has not been in any way affected by the dress regulations issued in May last. It refers to those little points which are of importance in securing uniformity of dress on all occasions, and is as follows:

DRESS REGULATIONS.

Permanent Corps.

1. Besides on all occasions of State or Ceremony, Officers attending in uniform, reviews, entertainment, etc., at which His Excellency the Governor General, the General Officer commanding or the Lieutenant-Governors are to be present, will appear in full dress unless otherwise ordered. The full dress, as regards Infantry, is to be understood to consist of helmet (in the day time), tunic, crimson sash, white enamelled