

to serve to fill the vacancy they will quickly come to reason. It is worth while putting the law into force as an experiment any way and to be prompt about it let it be tried next year, so that we may have no companies under strength in any of the corps of exercise.

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There is a good deal of talk just now about a reorganization of the Montreal infantry regiments, and when the source of the discussion, Ottawa, is considered, there is every reason to assume that something will come of it. It has for a long time been felt that the establishments of the Montreal city regiments are too small to allow of all the corps being kept up except by gigantic efforts on the part of the officers. It has always been a severe strain upon the officers of the Montreal corps to keep up their really high standard of efficiency with only six companies in each regiment. As the district has about its full number of companies it appears impossible to increase the establishments of any of the regiments without reducing the number of regiments by doubling some of them up or by disbanding some altogether. Of course this cannot be done without interfering with the cherished traditions of some of these historic old corps; but then omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs and militiamen should have enough patriotic interest in the service as a whole to hail with satisfaction a change which would doubtless be of great benefit to the force, even if it does affect in some way the cherished institutions of their own corps.

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The question of the profits of rifle shooting is such a very old one and so often comes to the surface that the article on the subject from an English service paper reproduced in another column will be read with a great deal of interest. There is no doubt about it that rifle shooting is not often a means of increasing a man's income. Generally it is a drain on his revenue. Doubtless many men have bought rifles and started in on a career on the ranges with the hope of making money out of it, but very few indeed have succeeded. There are a few men in Canada who do shoot for what they can get out of it and who are indifferent to the interests of the militia; but the proportion of these pot-hunters to marksmen who go in for shooting for the love of the sport and for the sake of the service is not more than as one in a hundred.

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It is satisfactory to find that the English papers speak so well of Major Lake,

new Quarter Master General. We might have known he was a good man, when General Herbert chose him, but now that the English papers are speaking so loudly in his praise it is to be hoped that those who condemned the appointment will see the error of their ways. Will the papers which made such an outcry over the appointment kindly note what the English papers have to say about Major Lake?

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How long can a Martini-Henry rifle be depended upon to do accurate shooting? An English service paper says that the life of a Martini in the army with careful handling, if not used in a campaign and merely used for target practice is ten years. This means the firing of but very few rounds in comparison with what would be fired by an expert shot in our militia service. Again a rifle might be considered serviceable which would be discarded by crack shots for accurate shooting in matches. The question of the life of Martinis was much discussed at the D. R. A. meeting at Ottawa. Some cracks said four years was long enough to shoot a Martini; others three, two and one. One of the best shots in the country said that heretofore he had never fired a Martini longer than two years and in future he would get a new rifle every year. All the big prizes at Ottawa were won with new rifles. We should like to hear the opinions of our readers on this subject.

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If, as is expected, the new Quarter Master General is to take charge of the stores department it is to be hoped that the question of uniforms will receive his early attention. There are plenty of improvements possible. One which all militiamen would like to see carried out would be the issue of serges to the infantry. Why it has not been done before it is really impossible to understand, for while effecting an economy it would increase the comfort and efficiency of the militiamen. It is really a waste of good cloth to send men to camp and to make the city corps put in their annual drills in cloth tunics and it is senseless too in view of the discomfort caused by the heat. If serges were issued every three years the tunics would last twice as long at least as at present and in the end the cost would be found to be less.

The first of the September numbers of the Canadian Military Gazette has just been issued from the press. Under the new management the paper shows a vast improvement over the old style, while it is easily noticeable that the publishers and the editors intend that all the news and articles in its columns in the future shall be up to date.—Gazette, Sept. 9th.

Regimental Notes

TORONTO.

An adjourned and special meeting of Her Majesty's Army and Navy Veterans was held on Sept. 20th in Occident hall, President Alexander Muir, M.A., in the chair. The attendance was large and business of interest came up for discussion. Among other things the secretary was instructed to communicate with the secretary of His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen, asking when His Excellency expected to visit Toronto, it being the intention of the Veterans to present him with an address on the occasion of his first visit to this city, and also to be presented individually to him on parade, as was done in Earl Derby's time. A committee was appointed to draft a suitable address, and to make other necessary arrangements for the occasion. Great dissatisfaction was expressed by the members on account of the refusal of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association to employ the Veteran's band for the Fair. It was contended that the band ought to have received a share of the patronage bestowed on other city bands by the association.

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On Monday evening, 18th, the inmates of the Home for Incurables, by the kindness of Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, were entertained to an open air concert from the Queen's Own band, who came in full force, under the leadership of Mr. Bayley, and for two hours rendered a choice selection of first class music, to the great delight of the inmates, who occupied the verandahs in the Cameron wing.

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Gen. Montgomery Moore, commander of the British forces in North America and Administration of the Dominion of Canada during the interregnum between Lord Derby's departure and Lord Aberdeen's arrival, registered at the Queen's a week ago. Col. North, of the British army, who is stationed at Halifax, was with him. The general visited Toronto, it is said, with a view of buying horses, as he cannot get good ones in Halifax.

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The Queen's Own Rifles paraded for the first time this fall on Sept. 20th. There was a good turn out, the parade state showing a strength of 530 of all ranks, and thirty-seven recruits. General Montgomery Moore, commander-in-chief of the forces in America, and Col. North were present, and inspected the battalion, being well pleased with the clothing, appointments, and general conduct of the men. The battalion marched out and drilled for a couple of hours. The bugle band, which is very strong, played several fine, new marches. Among the regimental orders were the following:—The officer commanding has been pleased to make the following promotion:—"H" Co., to be corporal. Pte H. M. Black, vice Evans, discharged. Lieut. L. Vesconte returns to duty from this date. The regiment will parade in divine service order on Sunday, the 24th inst. at 2.30 p.m., and proceed