

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

The Popular Organ of the Active Force of the Dominion.

VOL. VII, No. 2
Price Five Cents.

OTTAWA, JANUARY 14th, 1892.

\$2.00 a Year.
\$1.50 in advance.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

An example which might well be generally followed has been set by the Bugle-Major of the Queen's Own Rifles, in instituting a series of entertainments, combining a smoking concert and lecture, at which the various bugle calls are explained and sounded until they become familiar. Each company of the regiment in turn is invited to one of these events. The report received of the first shows it to have been very successful. In a great many regiments no trouble at all is taken to acquaint the men with the bugle calls, and the natural result is that they never become familiar with them.

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The recent death of Lt.-Col. C. T. Gillmor, removes from the scene a generally esteemed citizen, who enjoyed to the last the popularity deservedly attained during long and prominent connection with the Militia service. He had reached the advanced age of eighty years, but was in good health up to the last. On New Year's Day he was laid up with a cold, and not taking proper precautions against exposure, though bronchitis and pneumonia quickly developed, he succumbed on the evening of the 3rd. He was buried on the 7th, at Toronto, in accordance with the decision of his relatives, who reside in Ireland. A few weeks before his death, Col. Gillmor was appointed Deputy Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, to act during the illness of Sir Alexander Campbell, who had been incapacitated by a stroke of paralysis. He had long been a respected public officer, having held the office of Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, from 1867 until last year, when he retired.

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A sketch of the military career of the deceased is given in the *Empire*, and from this we extract the following:—

“His father was Gowan Gillmor, an officer in the British service, and from him he inherited that military spirit, which early in life was strongly developed, and which in after years won for him

distinguished honours in the Militia service of Canada. He first joined the Sligo Militia, under the command of Col. John Irwin, and on July 10, 1839, was appointed Ensign of his company. In March, 1858, he arrived in Canada, and for several years acted as a Deputy Sheriff of York County, under Sheriff Jarvis. Shortly after his arrival in Toronto he joined the 3rd Battalion of Toronto, which was the sedentary militia, and on Jan. 24th, 1862, he was made the Ensign of his company. He then became a member of the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own, joining the 7th or the Civil Service company. On April 10th, 1863, he was appointed Ensign, and on May 20th of the following year, he was commissioned as Captain of the company. On September 30th, 1864, he was granted a first-class certificate as Captain of the Queen's Own, by the board of military officers, the certificate being signed by Col. Peacock.

“Promotion came fast, for in the following year Capt. Gillmor was advanced to the rank of Major. In 1866, the year of the Fenian incursion, he was in reality appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the Regiment, although his commission was not issued until the following year. Col. Durie was the Colonel of the Queen's Own, but as he was not attached to the regiment when the Fenian raid occurred, Major Gillmor was given the command of the brave citizen soldiers who went to the front. Under the command of Colonel Booker, of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, Brigadier-Major Gillmor and his companies were in the engagement at Kidgeaway, on June 2nd, 1866. Major Gillmor was, during that year, in camp with the Queen's Own at Stratford, and also at Thorold, under the command of Colonel, now Lord, Wolseley. During the American war he served on the Niagara frontier, with the companies of the Queen's Own that were despatched to that part of the country in consequence of the St. Alban's raid, and other disturbances that occurred in those stirring days. As Colonel of the Queen's Own Rifles, he endeared himself to the members of the regiment, and his retirement was a matter of general regret.”

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The Mackinnon competition for skirmish firing by teams at Bisley, is one in which our representatives might always count upon a high place did they practise for it. The Dominion Association might well bring the matter prominently before the attention of the members eligible for next team. The competition seems likely to be more keenly contested by the mother country teams next season. The Scottish Twenty Club have discussed the matter and agreed that their captain shall make arrangements for a Scottish team taking part next year.

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The reproach—if such it be—has frequently been made against the members and friends of our militia, that as citizens

they will not take the responsibility of directly asking for the increased military expenditure which they consider the Government should authorize. However commendable this inaction may be from the standpoint of military discipline, it shows a lack of business method, and it seems that in England—whose example it is the proper thing to follow—quite a different feeling prevails, as the following from the *Broad Arrow* illustrates:—

“It has often been advanced in these columns—without in any way denying the value of the volunteer force—that the volunteers as a military body have an unduly preponderating influence, far in excess of that wielded by any other portion of the army, from the fact that they are voters. It is quite impossible to controvert this, it is too apparent, and is being perpetually emphasised by the action of the authorities, and the obsequious attention to all volunteer desires by royal personages, cabinet ministers and War Office dignitaries. Indeed, it is now openly avowed that the million past and present volunteers have only to ask to receive, and that it rests with them whether they will in the future be clothed in chain-mail armour or rest content with the more comfortable but less striking garments of the nineteenth century.

“The wonder is, not that the volunteer force obtains so much from those who govern by party politics, but that it asks so little, and it is a matter for surprise that its members have not a much more exaggerated opinion of their true value than even that which some of their representatives claim for them.”

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Military invention has broken out in a new direction. In England an ex-officer of the 2nd Life Guards has been devoting himself lately to perfecting a strange system by which, he maintains, the value of cavalry may be increased. He uses a repeating or magazine rifle which is fixed, by means of a thin metallic girth, beneath the horse, so that the muzzle projects between, and just in advance of, the fore-legs. The left or bridle hand only is used in firing, leaving the sword-arm perfectly free. In the experiments, which are said