



THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

VOL. IX
No. 6

MONTREAL, 15th MARCH, 1894

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 cents.

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(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED AT MONTREAL ON THE
1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

DEVOTED TO THE
Interests of the Military Forces of Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada and the United States, - Per Annum	\$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union Countries, - - - - -	10s 6d. stg
Single Copies, - - - - -	10 cents

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favour of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft.

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Note and Comment.

According to the Volunteer Record a decision which affects all Bisley competitors, and, it may fairly be assumed, all men shooting on county and local ranges, is that which has been arrived at to alter the dimensions of the 200 yards inner and magpie. When General Lord Roberts distributed the prizes at the close of the last Bisley meeting, he made out a good case, from a military point of view, for the paying of more attention to shooting in the standing position. The chairman at the late annual meeting of the National Rifle Association, told the members that the council held strong views on the importance of shoulder shooting, and also of maintaining the kneeling position at 200 yards. Now, fortified by the advice and opinion of the hero of Candahar, they propose taking steps to give effect to their convictions in regard to standing.

We have yet to learn to what extent and under what conditions the innovation is to be carried, over and above that with which we are familiar. What we do know is that to render the compiling of scores easier than it would otherwise be on occasions when standing is substituted for kneeling, the inner is to be increased to 20 inches and the magpie to 32 inches. The bull's-eye and the outer are to remain as heretofore. No single voice was raised against the change, so that the action of the council, as regards the new measurements, has been unanimously endorsed by the general body of N. R.A. members, so far as they were represented at the annual meeting. Whether the same unanimity will be displayed, when, as is not improbable, an ordinance goes forth that, in some of the 200 yards shoots, standing is in future to be reglementary, remains to be seen. However, this may be, prejudice will have to give way to practicalness, and likes and dislikes to military exigencies. In the meantime there will be much not unnatural curiosity to learn something more about various matters in which interest will culminate a little over four months hence.

The War Office has just completed the drawing up of a consolidated index of all the army regulations now in force. In it there are references to no less than one hundred and forty distinct publications, all recognized as army regulations, that are still in existence, so it will be recognized that the task has been an arduous one. The announcement leads to the very natural wish, "Would that the Militia Department would go and do likewise, or at any rate bring out an issue of the 'Regulations and Orders' up to date?" To read this red book now at all intelligently, one has to keep it thickly interleaved with extracts from

General Orders. In these days of type setting machines and stereotyping there is no reason why the plates of this book should not be kept on hand at Ottawa, and also kept corrected, so that an issue could be brought out at the commencement of every year. Why should not the same system be adopted in connection with the Militia list. Here we are in the middle of March and the Militia List of January first not yet to hand.

Talking of printing recalls the fact that the new Canadian Manual of Arm Drill is one of the worst pieces of typographical blundering that has ever been perpetrated in Canada. While there might be some excuse for typographical blunders in a publication like a newspaper, brought out under high pressure, there can be none for such an aggregation of blunders as come up smiling in the new drill book, for there was no undue haste in its production that we are aware of, and then the necessity for absolute exactness in such a book are so apparent.

A writer in the military column of the "Empire" joins issue with us in our advocacy of the principle that at sham-fights and on other occasions when large bodies of troops are brought together brigades should be commanded by officers of the permanent force. The idea of this correspondent is that the militia officers (non-permanent) get more real instruction by the method of giving them the brigades and letting the permanent officers off with the duties of umpires. This might be all very well were there any object in bothering the colonels of the active militia with the duties of brigade commanders. In the event of trouble the chances of handling brigades would be very slim. Let them get proficient in their duties as commanding officers of battalions, and they will find