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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, AUGUST 15, 1895.

Notes and Comments

From Quebec to Hamilton the citizens of the different towns in which the Queen's prize winner stopped on his way home, have vied with one another to do him honor. Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton have in turn seen their volunteers, their merchants, their city fathers turn out to do honor to Pte. Hayhurst and acclaim his triumph.

All Canada has joined in the demonstration through the medium of the press. That the nerve and skill of Hayhurst deserve praise, what rifleman will deny? Yet the ovations given are deeper felt than the mere praise due to a successful rifle-

shot. *Canada's victory* is the victory that is cheered, and by it Canadians have had awakened in them that feeling for which true men suffer and die, that patriotism, that pride of race, which goes so far to make a nation strong.

Major-General Gascoigne has been appointed to the command of the Canadian Militia. He comes to Canada with a splendid reputation for earnestness and soldierly qualities. In the regular army he is known as a thorough soldier, and he was one of the most popular commanding officers the city of London volunteer district ever had. We have every reason to expect that the new general will do much to popularize the militia service, and there is plenty of opportunity for him to do that without relaxing the present standard of efficiency. Major General Gascoigne can depend upon the loyal support of the militia. We wish we could say as much for the political powers of the country.

That the militia is dear to the hearts of the Canadian people has been again shown by the interest taken by the press and public in the warm welcome extended everywhere to Private Hayhurst, of the 13th Battalion, the winner of Her Majesty's prize at Bisley. It is to be hoped, from Hayhurst's thorough exposure of the necessity of encouraging long range shooting in Canada, that the Canadian people appreciate by this time that the fostering care of the Militia Department was not altogether responsible for Hayhurst's splendid victory.

With all of this silly talk about Provincial rights and local interests

in connection with the Manitoba school fuss, it is pleasant to see the spirit of camaraderie and oneness that pervades the militia. The Montreal militiamen were just as proud of Hayhurst's victory, and gave the champion marksman just as warm a reception as the members of his own battalion up in Hamilton. The militia has had not a little to do with the welding of the peoples of these once scattered provinces into one solid nationality.

Members of the force will learn with much satisfaction that the department has made arrangements with the War Office for the loan of a number of Lee-Metford rifles. The recent Chitral campaign appears to have thoroughly borne out the opinion of the Imperial small arms committee that the Lee-Metford was the best rifle in existence. It is an expensive arm, doubtless, but the war in China showed that the best weapons were the cheapest in the long run. It is little better than murder, either, to consider the question of cheapness in arming a force of men who may some day be opposed to arms of precision.

The following letter of "Pedagog" will be read with interest, and deserves the careful perusal of all interested in Canada and its militia. So far as it goes it entirely coincides with the views of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE. Our grumbling has always been directed, not so much at the system of our militia force as at the system the Government employs of managing it, using it as a political machine, a vote grinder, instead of raising it above the level of party politics and hand-