

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Second Year.
VOL. II, No. 4

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1886.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
Single Copies Five Cents

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

May begin at any time, and are payable strictly in advance. Terms for Canada, the United States, or Great Britain, \$1.50; eight months, \$1.00; to clubs of four annual subscribers, four copies for \$5.00; postage in each case prepaid. Single copies can be obtained from the newsdealers at 5 cents.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Acceptable in character will be inserted at 15 cents per line for transient matter. Rates for large spaces or extended periods will be given on application. Space estimated at four columns to the page and twelve lines to the inch.

REMITTANCES

Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,

Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The Vote at the Vic.'s bazaar.
The war game.
Col. Grasett's success with the Tenth.
The duties of a company commander.
The past records of our force.
Last week's general orders.
The Algoma rifle battalion.

PERSONALS.

QUEBEC ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

SELECTED.

Revolvers

SELECTED.

The reform of infantry drill.
The war game.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Montreal garrison artillery —
R. J. Wicksteed.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

EXTRACTS FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

OUR TRADING COLUMN.

Comment and Criticism.

THE little black devils have once more sprung up unexpectedly, having secured the highest vote at the bazaar in Montreal, conducted in aid of the Victorias' armory, in a competition to decide upon the most popular regiment in Canada. The ninetieth were closely pressed by the Montreal garrison artillery, and it speaks well for the magnanimity of this corps that they allowed the poll to be reopened so that the votes which put the rifles at the head of the list could be recorded. Everybody is to be congratulated on the result; our Winnipeg friends on winning the contest; the Artillery for making so close a run, and for yielding so gracefully, and the Vics on the success of their bazaar, to say nothing of the grand success of their armory scheme.

WE reproduce from the *Volunteer Service Review* some editorial remarks on the War Game, which will serve not only to give an idea of what this game, or rather tactical training, is, but how operations are conducted. Last year we suggested the advisability of Canadian city corps procuring sets for their club rooms; now again we make the same suggestion. The whole apparatus requisite for this practice can be purchased for about thirteen dollars, a sum that the officers of a couple of battalions conjoined should be able to raise for such a purpose without any herculean effort. Once more—let the officers in each city in Canada combine, and go in for Kriegsspiel this winter.

THE recent appointment of Col. Grasett to a civic position in Toronto, has reminded us of a letter written to the *Montreal Witness* a little more than six years ago, when he was first gazetted to the command of the Royal Grenadiers, in which the correspondent pointed out how unlikely it was that a gentleman trained in the rigid discipline of the British army should successfully assume command of a disorganized volunteer corps, and how manifold were the obstacles that lay in the way of a prosperous issue. Time has proved that Col. Grasett is a brilliant exception to the rule laid down by the gloomy correspondent, for the success of the tenth from the time he took the reins has been phenomenal, and to-day his regiment divides the honors tolerably evenly with such a crack corps as the Queen's Own. It is to be hoped for the good of the force that Col. Grasett's new duties will not entail his resignation from the active force.

THIS correspondent, in criticizing the state at that time of the tenth, blames the collapse of the regiment on the incapacity of the captains, and proceeds to show with much force how universal are the duties of those officers, duties in no whit lessened to-day. The captain of a company in the Canadian militia, he says, is personally responsible to his commanding officer for every article of arms, clothing and equipment issued to his company. Any losses he must make good at his own expense. He has to inspect every man that enters the company; question him as to his name, age, residence, occupation, &c. If satisfied, see that he properly signs the muster or company roll, and that he is sworn in by the commanding officer; issue clothing to him, and apportion the arms and accoutrements he is to use, taking record of the same; pay for any alterations to clothing that may be necessary, and where extras are required, not exactly sanctioned by authority, pay for these also (in this latter case assisted by the other officers of the company, if there are any); he must eliminate any men enlisted that he finds negligent, careless, slovenly, insubordinate, addicted to drink, inattentive to duty (he has no means of punishment as in the regular army, therefore he must get rid of them), and men not fit for the company, and supply their places by a fresh enlistment; as well as replace those who from necessity leave the force (for such reasons as their employers threatening them with dismissal if they do not leave), and others who are obliged to leave the city to seek for work elsewhere, taking in the clothing and arms from them, and reissuing to those entering, and this constantly occurring; notifying the men to attend drill and parades, and when reviews and inspections take place; writing to or interviewing the employers of his men to procure leave for them to attend, and other work almost impossible to enumerate. It seems unfair that such an unequal distribution of work should exist, but nobody seems to be able to suggest a remedy.

THE query in this issue, as to the inception of our volunteer system, and Capt. Wicksteed's reminiscences of his few days on the border, alike suggest one direction in which much interesting work might be done by some of our militia officers, and that is in the way of getting at