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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

VOL. X.
No. 12.

MONTREAL, JUNE 1, 1895.

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 cents.

THE CANADIAN
MILITARY GAZETTE,
(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 favor of prompt remittance.

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Notes and Comments

Can there possibly be any intention on the part of the government to withhold the annual drill pay from the artillery this year? There is no doubt that the artillery is, all through, the most efficient arm of our service, and that is all the more reason why this year's drill season should not be allowed to pass by without the artillery performing any drill. It is easier to maintain corps in a state of efficiency, once efficiency is attained, than it is to attain it in the first place. The passing of a year's drill would mean a big drop in the efficiency of the artillery.

According to all reports the officers and non-commissioned officers

of the permanent corps, who have been sent to England for courses of instruction with the Imperial troops, are getting along satisfactorily. This sending of members of our permanent force to England appears, however, to be a great waste of public money, of which there is little enough for the militia these days, goodness knows. If the permanent force represented any considerable factor in the defensive force of the Dominion, or if this country made up its mind to drop the present militia system altogether, and indulge in the doubtful luxury of a regular army of native production, it would be money well spent to send officers and non-commissioned officers to England to get inoculated with the splendid traditions of the British army. We repeat that under the existing conditions the money spent in this trans-Atlantic excursion business is simply thrown away.

Doubtless the members of the permanently embodied militia who are sent to England acquire information and experience which would make them better qualified for service in a regular army than they were when they left Canada; but that is not what is wanted. True, many of the political heelers and social pets who have been pitchforked as officers into the permanently embodied corps require plenty of information and experience to qualify them for the positions they hold but seldom try to fill, but it is not of the kind they acquire with the Imperial troops.

The one great fault of too many of our permanently embodied mi-

litiamen is their proness to overlook their first and only duty, their *raison d'être*, their position as instructors of the rest of the Active Militia. They have so pleased themselves with contemplating the fiction that they are "regulars," that they are the first line of defence of the country, and all that sort of thing, that they flatter themselves that they are a considerable deal better than anybody else and try to put on airs altogether unsuitable to their position, and distinctly offensive to the real defensive force of the country. Scorning to acknowledge their positions as the paid instructors or assistants of the Active Militia, they too often assume an offensive superiority. After they come back from England this complaint is aggravated rather than ameliorated.

In view of the fact that but a very few officers of the school corps know how to deliver an elementary lecture or conduct a class of instruction, and that fewer appear to know how to draw up intelligent examination papers or award marks equally, our readers will agree upon the wisdom of the suggestion that a course at a normal school would be of infinitely more practical value to the average officer of the permanently embodied corps than a jaunt to Aldershot.

Another view of the case also presents itself. If these gentlemen have insufficient technical knowledge why should the country be put to the expense of enabling them to acquire it? They are well paid and the country is surely under no obligations to keep them posted on their