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NOTE AND COMMENT.

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE wishes all its readers A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year ; and takes this opportunity of expressing to the many friends who have sent holiday greetings, the Editor's appreciation of the kind spirit prompting them.

"Canadian Military Life" is the subject of a very interesting paper in the current number of the *National Review*, written by a correspondent, "Edward Parker," who gives the impressions received during a recent visit to the Dominion. The article is in narrative form, purporting to be the gist of a conversation at an officers' gathering on the anniversary of Batoche, at a "town" not named, but seemingly Winnipeg. The visitor's questioning brought out the weak as well as the strong points of our system, and the military resources and expenditure of the Dominion rather suffer by comparison with the Australian figures. The Mounted Police come in for high praise as a valuable adjunct to the militia, especially in connection with the North West rebellion. The closing paragraph of the article is one which will be read with general interest and appreciation, and in the minds of those who know our Adjutant-General will stamp Mr. Parker as a man of good judgment, when he puts this closing toast in the mouth of a member of Parliament: "There is one toast that should never be forgotten where members of the Canadian Militia are gathered together. I propose the health of one whom all militiamen honour, all politicians respect, and the country values--- Adjutant-General Walker Powell."

A commendably cheerful spirit is shown by the council of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association, in their annual report just presented, in which they make the best of a state of affairs sufficient to discourage men of less energy and determination. It will be noted, in the recommendations submitted, that an endeavour is to be made to introduce new methods next year with a view to re-awakening interest in the Association, which seems to have of late been losing its grip on the shooting men of the outlying districts of the Province, whilst at Montreal, the association headquarters, the closing of the city ranges has appreciably lessened the interest in all shooting affairs.

It is none too soon that the free lunch plan is to be altered, for while there may have been no formal complaints there certainly has been a great deal of criticism in private, on the part of the rank and file, over the fact that in addition to exempting from drill qualifications officers entering as competitors, they were further favoured by

having a grand lunch furnished to them at the expense of the whole association, while those who were not officers had to put up with the rather second class fare supplied by caterers quite aware that their patrons would consist of few besides the rank and file, and took liberties accordingly. There was in this matter a substantial, as well as a sentimental, grievance which would have found expression long ago had suitable opportunity offered. At last the matter was taken up by an officer having pronounced ideas as to the equal rights of all competitors to the privileges of the rifle range, and it was at once conceded that the practice should be stopped.

The council should be encouraged in their attempt to arouse interest in the association by means of a public presentation of the prizes. It is notorious, however, that the presentations of the past--at Ottawa as well as at Montreal--have disastrously failed of their object ; this being mainly because the public do not understand the significance of the rifle shooting events, and no scheme for creating an intelligent interest has yet been devised. Perhaps if a beginning were made with the non-shooting members (the great majority) of the corps whose headquarters are where the presentation is to take place, and it were made part of their duty to parade in full force to honour their shooting champions, the effect upon the public would be so gratifying as to prove the experiment well worth trying.

A very interesting report appearing in the *Volunteer Service Gazette* to hand this week, of the annual dinner of the Admiralty (H) Company of the Civil Service Rifles, brings forcibly to mind, in contrast, the discouragement shown by our First Lord of the Admiralty to volunteer soldiering on the part of members of his department of the Canadian Civil Service. In England, thanks to the official encouragement given, the Civil Service Rifles is one of the best regiments in the volunteer service. At the dinner above alluded to, Col. Mills, their commanding officer, referred with pride to the large number of distinguished Civil Servants who had served with the volunteers, and told how he had succeeded in obtaining a large number of handsome subscriptions from various Cabinet Ministers and permanent Heads of Departments in aid of the regimental headquarters now being erected by the Rifles. It is evidently well recognized in England that Government employees who spend their spare time in volunteering are apt thereby not only to make themselves additionally valuable in time of trouble, but also in peace time to form habits and associations increasing rather than lessening their value to the Civil Service.