

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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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.

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NOTICE.

SUBSCRIBERS will not in future be sent receipts for moneys remitted for subscription fees. The number on each printed address label indicates the last issue for which payment has been received, and a change of this number will be equivalent to a receipt. Our friends are reminded that all subscriptions are payable in advance, so that the second year's subscription of any one whose label shows a less number than 73 is now due. We have to thank many for responding to this notice in past issues; but there are great numbers yet in arrears, and we would be greatly obliged if they will not let this matter escape their attention. Please strengthen our hands by remitting promptly.

Comment and Criticism.

THE annual course of study for militia officers at the Royal Military College will commence about the 20th March, 1887. The course lasts a period of three months, and combines instruction in strategy, tactics, military administration, military engineering, military surveying and reconnaissance, riding and signalling. The officers who passed this course last year have been loud in praise of the practical nature of the instruction which they received, and the professors at the college were delighted with the attention and application displayed in their pupils. Every officer who can afford to sacrifice three months during the spring season should avail himself of this opportunity.

ALL officers holding a short course certificate are eligible for attendance at the above three months course. From present indications it seems that there will be about a dozen officers assembled at the college next March. A fine model of a piece of ground was placed in the college last year by the government at a cost of \$200. The theoretical course of instruction in tactics will be varied this year by practical examples, shown on this model, of all the details of minor tactics, such as outpost, patrolling, advance guards and mimic engagements. By these means officers will become thoroughly acquainted with the proper methods of carrying out these very essential features of the art of war, a matter which we have so often urged in our columns.

THE successful passing of examinations at the end of this course entitles the competitor to a "first-class long course certificate, grade A," the highest military educational honor in the country. The professors at the college are anxious to increase the number of attendants, and will gladly furnish all information with reference to details of the work to those who wish for it. We should like to see more than one course at the college in the year, so as to enable those officers who cannot get away in the spring to take advantage of it.

THE council of the Dominion rifle association held a meeting in this city yesterday, Lieut.-Col. Ouimet, M.P., chairman, presiding, and there being a good attendance of members. Amongst those from a distance were the president, Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick; Lieut.-Col. Jackson, D.A.G.; Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G.; Major Blaiklock and Capt. Hood, 5th Royal Scots; and Lieut. MacNaughton, Cobourg, G.A. A quantity of general business was transacted preparatory to the forthcoming annual meeting of the association.

THE death in Quebec, recently, of Mr. John Edward Boyd, engineer of public works, is a matter of sincere regret to a large number of warm friends, whom his uniform kindness and manliness, as well as his high professional standing, had secured. Mr. Boyd had an honorable militia record, having entered the militia service of New Brunswick in 1860 as lieutenant in the Rothesay rifles, a corps raised by the late Hon. Lieut.-Col. Robertson, and which acted as a guard of honor at the debarkation, in the same year, at Rothesay, near St. John, N. B., en route for Fredericton, of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, the name being assumed by the company in remembrance of the event. During the "Trent difficulty," in 1861, Mr. Boyd raised and was appointed captain of an engineer company, favorably known afterwards as the New Brunswick Engineers, the recruits being principally employees of the Government railway, of which he was superintendent and chief engineer; and early in 1862, the members of the corps did good service by assisting in fitting up the buildings required for barracks by the regular troops which were poured into St. John at that time. Capt Boyd was later promoted to the rank of major, and his connection with the Engineers continued until 1867, when, on being transferred to the Department of Public Works at Ottawa, he resigned his command.