

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Topics of the Week.

It gives us much pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of holiday greetings from our good friends, the 38th Dufferin Rifles and the 62nd St. John Fusiliers. The Dufferins' Christmas card, which is ornamented by the crest of the battalion and a picture of the handsome new drill hall, is commemorative of the two trips to other cities made during the drill season, one being to the Hamilton summer carnival, on the 23rd August, and the other to Toronto for the sham battle of Thanksgiving Day, 7th November. There is pictorial representation of an incident of the three hours side-tracking which delayed the regiment's arrival at Toronto. The card issued by the 62nd is as simple as it is pretty, bearing merely the regimental crest, with the words: "We wish our comrades a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

The Amherst, N. S. *Record* to hand this week has this endorsement of the Military Rifle League: "The plan is quite feasible and is in line with the league games which now command so much attention, but with this advantage in favour of shooting, that it is the most useful as well as the most scientific of the pastimes. We would like to see the various regiments of the Maritime province, and particularly the 93rd, enter teams for the league matches."

The officers of C Battery, R.C.A., may now have in view an end to the inconvenience to which they have been subjected by reason of their lack of barrack accommodation. A contract for the erection of officers quarters at Victoria, B. C., has just been awarded to Messrs. Woodward & Munday of that city, the price being in the neighbourhood of \$26,000. The work is to be commenced in April.

It is quite a common thing for militia officers to fight their way into the House of Commons, but their appointment to the Senate is of rarer occurrence. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we note the last appointment of a life legislator to be that of Major Chas. A. Boulton, who succeeds to the vacancy in the representation of Manitoba caused by the appointment of Hon. Dr. Schultz to be Lieutenant Governor of that Province. Major Boulton took part in both the N. W. rebellions, narrowly escaping death at the hands of Riel in the first, and rendering essential service with the splendid force of scouts he had raised in the second. He has also written a reliable, as well as readable, account of the rebellion. Major Boulton was a captain in the 100th Regiment, part of which he recruited himself when it was raised in 1858.

Perhaps the appointing powers have already as good as fixed upon the person to command the "Wimbledon" team for 1890, but in case they have not we would like to suggest as an officer very acceptable to all concerned, Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, M.P., who commands the British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery. It is not putting the case too strongly to say that Col. Prior is in every respect all that a team commandant should be. In the few years that he has been in the House of Commons he has made himself one of the most popular members. He is every inch a soldier, and is happy in the possession of brilliant social qualities which would make the Canadian camp famous on Bisley Common, where the next "Wimbledon" meet, by whatever name called, will take place. The honour of the command of the team has never yet been awarded to a British Columbian, but when a representative of that province is called for, we think no more worthy officer will be found than Col. Prior.

Kind Praise from Our Readers.

This issue, the last for 1889, brings to a close the Fourth Volume of the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, which, since the 12th of May, 1885, has week by week found its way about in an ever increasing circle of readers. In spite of many difficulties, and though often sorely tempted to abandon the enterprise, by reason of discouragement met with in quarters where support might have been most confidently expected, the publishers have stuck to their undertaking, with the result that their unremitting labour and the closest economy of the slender funds available, have at length placed the paper upon a tolerably sound financial footing; and its speedy growth and development in interest and usefulness are assured, if our friends will interest themselves a little in increasing the support now accorded. We are quite conscious of many shortcomings, and that many matters of import to the militia have not received the attention they have deserved; but at the same time can conscientiously claim to have done the best possible with the means placed at one disposal. It has often been represented to us that the constituency available for the paper is too limited for it to succeed at its present low price; and some of our more enthusiastic friends have time and again urged an increase in the subscription fee. This, however, we desire to avoid, as it would be much more to our liking to increase the circulation, and thus the usefulness of the paper could, such be accomplished by keeping the fee at the present figure. Cheapness and nastiness, often so closely associated, we hope have not gone together in this instance. Whatever happened, we have endeavoured—and we believe with success—to preserve our good name, unsullied by any unworthy act or course. Now and again we receive a complaint, and welcoming it as at least a sign that our readers are not altogether indifferent, we endeavour to remove the cause, should the complaint be well founded. Happily, however, the mail bag regularly brings us missives of a widely different character—letters of cordial appreciation and encouragement from members of the force of all ranks, in every military centre in the Dominion. These have been very welcome indeed; all the more so because altogether unsolicited. In no instance have they come