

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

First Year.
VOL. I, No. 36.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 12th January, 1886.

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

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,
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It is just as well that our English friends should learn what is well known here, that General Laurie had no opportunity of seeing the performance of the Gatlings in action in the North-west, because he was present at none of the engagements, but was occupied in forwarding supplies from Swift Current, on the line of the railway, some 200 miles distant; and that if he has seen Gatlings fired at all it must have been at targets for practice. The truth is that the agent of the company, who accompanied two of the guns forwarded to the field force, has shown wonderful business ability by losing no opportunity of advertising his wares, and the most has been made of all that the machines accomplished. An instance of the ingenuity displayed in making everything tell for the advantage of the Gatling is the refutation by Lieut. Howard, the agent in question, of an accusation that he scalped Young White Cap, where it is incidentally mentioned that that brave was found with seven Gatling bullet holes in his body. It is sufficient to remark of this that no body was found with seven bullet holes in it, and that Young White Cap was not shot at all.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The late North-west force will learn with some surprise that Major-General Laurie is being quoted as an authority on Gatling guns in England. At a lecture in London recently by a Major West, on the adoption of a single-barrel machine gun for the land service, General Laurie is reported to have said, in the course of some remarks "with regard to the improved Gatling and Accles' feed-case, as worked under his supervision during the late rebellion," that "the Gatlings, when they came, were of great use, and the experienced American officers told him the weapon was of great advantage in saving the legs of light troops, and so of facilitating the advance, which had to be delayed ordinarily while the country traversed was being searched. He felt that the necessity for these guns was so great in the operations in the North-west that he went back and pushed on the guns, which did excellent service in saving the artillery from being taken by the enemy on one occasion. He had 20,000 rounds with his two guns, and when he asked for more astonishment was expressed. He replied that 20,000 rounds was only sufficient for ten minutes' firing, and he wanted enough for half an hour; when the work was done it was effective." On the strength of this the *Broad Arrow*, in a leader by Lieut.-Col. Rogers, recommends that a new commission should be appointed to decide once for all the question as to the best system of machine gun, "and that the president should be an officer of special experience like General Laurie."

This week's official *Gazette* contains a very large number of militia appointments, and is so long that we are obliged to hold over till next week the regulations for entrance to the Royal Military College, and the list of Military School certificates granted. In the active militia we find that there have been eighteen promotions; that twenty-six new officers have been added to the force, and that we have lost the services of thirty-three; thus leaving as usual a balance on the wrong side, of seven losses. We understand that the delay in issuing this batch of appointments was occasioned by the desire to square up the militia list preparatory to a new issue; if so it is unfortunate that so large a number of appointments will not appear in it.

Nearly all the appointments are in the lower ranks, the only changes affecting field officers' rank being in the non-combatant list. In Montreal there has been a general overhauling of the lists in all the battalions. In the Brigade of Garrison Artillery it will be noticed that Drs. Browne and Molson have resigned in favor of Drs. Cameron and Elder, who accompanied the regiment to the North-west. In the "Vics" there have been numerous retirements and consequent promotions and new appointments amongst the company officers; in the "Royal Scots" Major Blaiklock, the well-known secretary of the P. Q. R. A., who lately entered this regiment as a lieutenant, has been promoted to the command of a company; in the Fusiliers there have been five changes amongst the subalterns; and the 65th have adopted regimental seniority promotions, thus becoming a full-fledged city battalion, and being the first French-Canadian battalion carrying out the regimental system of promotion.

The ribbon for the rebellion medal is to have a blue centre with red borders—at least so say some of the well informed newspaper correspondents that profess to have seen it.