

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Notice.

WE have to thank those of our friends who, taking advantage of the club rates advertised on the last page, have paid for the renewal of their own subscriptions by securing new subscribers to the MILITIA GAZETTE. Quite a number of names have been added to our list in this way, and we have therefore decided to extend until further notice the time during which the offer holds good, which was to expire on the 31st inst. The arrangement is mutually advantageous, and we hope as many of our present subscribers as can possibly do so will avail themselves of the opportunity to secure their own papers free and at the same time render us material service. Our offer is that any present subscriber obtaining two new ones for us, and remitting \$3, their subscriptions for one year, will receive his own copy free for that period, and new subscribers forming clubs of three or upwards will receive the paper for one year for only One Dollar each.

To our subscribers in general we would say to each, look at the date upon your address label. It shows to what time you have paid. If you are in arrear, kindly forward the amount, by P. O. order or registered letter.

The change of the date upon the label after money has been sent, constitutes a receipt of the amount necessary to cover subscription up to the time indicated.

## Current Topics.

THE officers of the Queen's Own Rifles, and the sergeants of the same enterprising corps, have made us, in common with other friends, the recipients of neat and tastily got up souvenir Christmas cards. Besides the regimental crest, and the inscription of the services of the Queen's Own,—“Niagara, 1864; Limeridge, 1866; Pilgrimage Riots, 1870; G. T. R. Riots, 1877; Battleford, 1885”—the card issued by the officers has two scenes illustrative respectively of gallantry in the service of Venus and of Mars. The sergeants' card is mainly commemorative of the gaieties of the campaign of 1885; and bears, surrounding the regimental crest, in addition to the inscriptions above quoted, the words “Cut Knife, 1885; Birch Lake, 1885; Turtle Lake, 1885.” An Indian tepee is seen in the background; and a representation of a sergeant of the corps appropriately forms a striking feature of the card.

RATHER inconsistently, the *Toronto Mail* in a recent issue gives prominence to the complaint of a correspondent of the MILITIA GAZETTE, concerning the poor equipment of the militia, while in the same article it expresses the opinion that were the taxpayers consulted “it is more than probable that they would express themselves as favourable to a more moderate outlay” for the militia service. We do not

believe the taxpayers would do anything of the kind. That better equipment is urgently needed is indisputable, and by what means can the desideratum be secured save by an increased expenditure?

A TOTALLY unfounded report to the effect that a re-organization of the militia force was contemplated, has been received as gospel by several Canadian newspapers which ought to have been better informed. The canard came by cable, and cited the War Office as authority. Some persons locate it more definitely, as it is said to tally exactly with the sapient recommendation of a British officer who travelled across Canada last year, and was good enough to distribute, *en passant*, some advice as to how the militia and other affairs of the country should be run. Be that as it may, however, the report is equally unfounded and nonsensical. Defects in the system have year by year developed themselves, but they have been such as to be very simply remedied. Those which yet exist are allowed to do so because the money necessary to remove them is not forthcoming. No reorganization will give the country a cheaper service; and the schemes which the critics have proposed nearly all call for an increased sacrifice of time and expense on the part of the men patriotic enough to give their services to the force.

MILITIA General Orders of the 23rd inst., published in this issue, contain particulars of the regulations under which the Imperial Government have agreed to grant annually six commissions in the cavalry or infantry of the line to officers of the active militia of Canada. The conditions as to age are such—the candidate being required to be within the ages of 19 and 23, and to have served 15 months in the militia—as to make the offer of little personal interest to present officers of the force. But the offer will give additional opportunities to graduates of the Military College to see service abroad. We fancy that very few who have not passed through the college will be in a position to avail themselves of it.

IT will be noticed in the General Orders that Lieuts. Freer and Sears of the Infantry School Corps have received the brevet rank of Captain, to which they had become entitled under provision of Par. 502, R. & O. 1883, by five years' service as lieutenant. The friends of these deserving officers will be pleased to hear of the higher dignity to which they have attained, though the rewards they receive for their services—in common with the other officers of the permanent force—are not so substantial as might be desired.

REVIEWING the European outlook, the *Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette* has the following:—“How does the situation really stand? Germany has declared her intention of refraining from any attack on France, and there is no reason why she should attack her. On the other hand, the French press and French officers, many of them in high positions, lose no opportunity of openly declaring that they will never rest until they have had their revenge and regained their lost provinces and their forfeited milliards. \* France is merely waiting for