

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Comment and Criticism.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us from Prince Edward Island, pointing out that a contingent from that province was under arms for a couple of weeks during the early stages of last year's rebellion, and that although their services were ultimately not required in the West, their good will and readiness to do their duty were quite as fully manifested as if they had gone; and, furthermore, that they suffered grave inconvenience by being called away from their usual avocations just as the spring work was beginning. He urges that their good will deserves just recognition, and indicates that some of the local journals suggest that the whole contingent be granted free passes over the Canadian Pacific railway, that they may have the opportunity of viewing the land where so many of their countrymen "foremost fighting fell." This suggestion, of course, is extravagant and impracticable, but no one in the force would grudge the active-service contingent any favors that the government had it in their power to grant them in the way of additional pay, or some indulgence in the shape of extra accoutrements, ammunition, or such like. It is probable that nine-tenths of the volunteers who helped to quell the rebellion lost money by their loyalty, and it is not well to have such an anomalous state of affairs existing.

THE general public seem to have a particularly hazy notion of the relations between the government and the Canadian Pacific railway, and it seems to be an article of faith with our rural friends that free passes can emanate from the ministers by a mere stroke of the pen. It

should be distinctly understood that the government have not the slightest control over the management of the railway, and that anyone who wants to travel on it has to pay his way or get it paid for him, deadheads being tabooed. On account of transport charges during the rebellion alone, the militia department paid three-quarters of a million dollars to the company, which should be sufficient proof that it is run on strictly business principles.

IT really looks as if practical work in every military branch were going to become fashionable, and as if the old machine drill would soon be consigned to that oblivion which it ought to have graced ever since rifles were invented. We have the daily press in England devoting editorials to the subject, and we have the Duke of Cambridge himself "sailing for" general officers in a style quite unique, as a result of his recent tour of inspection, and warning them that they will be held personally responsible in future for any lack of knowledge and experience in field duties on the part of their several corps. As for the military press, it has been a unit for years in advocating reform, but like everything else preaching was vain until it was backed up by fashion. Sir Fred. Middleton here advocates practical teaching in field duties, and we hope that when our militia force is sufficiently leavened by new graduates from our schools of instruction, his wishes may be carried into effect more successfully than they are by most of our officers of the old school. We would warn all such that if they do not speedily work up and practise open formation movements, they are likely to find themselves and their corps behind the mode.

THE London volunteers have this fall developed quite a taste for outpost work, and the service papers have lately contained descriptions of more than one expedition successfully carried out. The plan adopted seems to be to divide up into two opposing bodies, one of which goes and takes up position while the other follows later, feeling its way, and each endeavors to secure and hold all the bridges, roads and paths. No shots are fired, but there is a code of rules under which the work approximates actual service, weak bodies being compelled to fall back, and all that sort of thing; so that full scope is given to the judgment and good soldiering of the several commanders. It is found that detachments can leave London at half-past four, go twenty-five miles by rail, and get all the work they want before eight o'clock. What battalion will take the lead in Canada in this real drill? There is plenty of fit ground within easy marching distance of every one of our Canadian corps' headquarters, and there might be many worse ways found of spending a winter half-holiday.

AN ordinary meeting of the council of the Ontario artillery association was to be held at the Rossin House, Toronto, on the 1st December, to consider the annual report preparatory to its submission to the members. In addition to the council meeting, his honor the Lieut-Governor was to attend and present the Ontario prizes (amounting to \$500), won during the last year.