

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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THE ORGAN OF THE MILITIA.

HAVING just entered upon the new year and a new volume, it is opportune to say a few words about the MILITIA GAZETTE, its purpose and its achievements. For nearly six years the paper has made its weekly round of the Dominion, a visitor—we are proud to believe—cordially welcomed by the men of all ranks whose welcome deserves most to be appreciated. It was the encouragement received from this class that inspired the publishers when in the face of apparent difficulties and discouragement they first essayed the task of issuing weekly a military paper for the Dominion. Hopefully embarking the necessary capital, and cheerfully giving their time with little or no financial reward, they placed the paper on its merits before the constituency to be served, and having secured the endorsement which has given it a sound permanent footing they may justly feel pride in the achievement.

It is not, however, upon the efforts of the publisher, or of the editor, alone that a paper such as the MILITIA GAZETTE must depend for its success. The editor may make it a satisfactory purveyor of news not otherwise readily available to those interested; and the publisher may secure advertising and subscription patronage sufficient to reward him for his investment; but there is more required than either of these can furnish. The active co-operation of the members of the force is an absolute necessity if their journal is to accomplish any noteworthy results. It is but a lever, constantly kept in advantageous position for use, and to which the power should be applied by the strong arm of the militia working together, the editor standing guard to see that no improper use is made of the leverage. We want more than the dollars of our subscribers and readers—we want their ideas, and it is our aim to so conduct the paper that it may speak with confident authority for the great body of militiamen.

In the past, we believe we have voiced their sentiments in urging many matters of great importance upon the Government and upon Parliament. Gratifying results have been accomplished; but there are many existing phases of the militia service, and events constantly occurring, calling for consideration and discussion such as can only be had through the medium of the press. Taking up the subjects

as from week to week may seem most opportune, we shall not cease to labour to secure the desired ends; but we wish to distinctly emphasize the fact that this paper can exercise influence corresponding only to the nature of the endorsement given by those for whom it professes to speak. Such endorsement we invite, to be given as opportunity offers; and from those who may disagree with the opinions expressed in these columns, as well as from those who agree with them, we invite a full and free statement of their views.

The MILITIA GAZETTE is published as an organ of the Militia; it is their own fault if it is not kept in tune.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

ATTENTION is invited anew to the work of our Royal Military College and the marked success of the graduates, by the announcement of the forthcoming annual meeting of the Royal Military College Club, to be held at Ottawa on the 24th inst. These annual gatherings are more than social reunions; they are availed of for the discussion of matters of great practical importance to the College and its graduates, and the latter make good use of these opportunities to promote the welfare of an institution to which they cannot fail to feel greatly indebted for the start in life the education there received has given them.

The results of experience have already shown the usefulness of the Royal Military College, and although it has not been many years in operation, the test has been long enough and of such a crucial nature that some of its opponents in 1876, when it was opened, are now its most earnest supporters. Many of those who thought the College was not required because the country did not maintain a large permanent force, and that there was no necessity for the education of officers in subjects with which they might not require to be familiar, have lived long enough to become satisfied that the Dominion is of greater extent than they were aware of, that its resources were being developed more rapidly than they had imagined possible, and that its necessities for an armed force did not entirely depend upon preparations for defence. The actual work of development and the