

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The *Toronto Mail* sees in the award of the contract for the erection of a drill hall in that city, the dawn of "a new era of recognition and appreciation of our citizen regiments," and in evidence of its own intelligent comprehension of the situation proceeds thus:—

"Another matter demanding early settlement is the securing and inaugurating of the new firing ground, which has long been a desideratum of prime necessity. The growth of the city in a westward direction renders it absolutely indispensable that the butts shall be removed from their present position. It is somewhat strange that there has been some utterance of objection to the removal of the butts a few miles out. It has been said that this will be inconvenient. It should not be forgotten, however, that marching is one of the things our military young men need to learn, and it is one moreover which there is perhaps a tendency to neglect in volunteer regiments. The establishment of a firing ground a few miles out, with a suitable space that could be used occasionally for drilling purposes, would perhaps help to increase the marching capabilities of the regiments, and if so it would certainly lead to the soldierly health and fitness of those who compose them."

The above from a paper which has endeavoured to be the champion *par excellence* of the militia in Toronto, is rather unexpected, not to say startling, and we fancy the riflemen would not take very kindly to the dawn of an era such as that indicated. It is plain that the writer of the article is not an authority on the subject he has chosen, and military men could afford to laugh at his absurdities were it not for the mischievous effect upon the mind of the public, very greatly influenced by opinions expressed in the leading newspapers.

The Dufferin Rifles, who a few years ago set the fashion in regimental Christmas cards, since widely copied, have shown enterprise in a new direction by the issue of an appropriately engraved card in connection with the annual church parade service of this year, which was held at the Brant Avenue Methodist Church, Brantford, on the 8th inst. The centre of the card contains the programme of the service, and surrounding it, in the shape of a deep border, there are several pictorial representations. In one of these the regiment is shown at service in the open air, with the tents pitched in the background; another shows an assembly in a church building; and a third shows the regiment on the march. The badge and motto of the regiment form the centre piece at the top.

The standing orders of the Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery have recently been issued in the shape of a neat little handbook, with stiff cover, tastily bound in red cloth, with the title and the regimental crest in gilt on the front. The orders are very complete, and will be found a useful model for other corps, especially as they have received the official approval of Major-General Herbert. They

are supplemented by a digest of the services of the Brigade which, according to its own records, dates its organization from 1812, though the Militia List makes the official date November 27th, 1856. The record shows frequent and honourable service, and it was a happy thought on the part of Lieut.-Col. Turnbull and his officers to take this means of placing it in the hands of the members as an inspiration to further excellence.

Month by month, as it came with our exchanges, we have looked with envy and admiration at the handsomely got up and well written *Guardian*, devoted to the interests of the National Guard of the United States. Illustration and letterpress combined made it a model magazine publication, and it deserved to be a great success. But even making allowance for the large field, we could not understand how it paid the publisher. It seems, however, that it did not pay him at all, for the last issue contains a valedictory notice in these terms of characteristic frankness:—

"Becoming convinced that the support of the National Guard is not sufficient to maintain a National Guard journal and not being disposed to personally carry such a burden, I sometime since gave orders to receive no subscriptions for advance publication, intending at the proper time to discontinue the paper. That time has now come. The present number will therefore be the last of *The Guardian* as a monthly publication under the present management. It may be continued as a quarterly. We have no apologies to offer. We have given value received for all but a few unexpired subscriptions which we are prepared to refund when called for."

## REGIMENTAL.

At the annual meeting of the M. G. A. Snowshoe club held recently, the annual report showed a very successful season. It was unanimously resolved to make the Athletic Club house the rendezvous for the coming winter. It was also decided to send invitations to the sister corps of the city to become members, the M. G. A. Snowshoe club being the only military snowshoe club in existence. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Hon. presidents, Lieut.-Col. Turnbull and Lieut. Col. Oswald; honorary vice-presidents, Major Cole and Captain Finlayson; president, Captain Ogilvy; vice presidents, Lieutenant Reid, Lieut. McEwan and Corp. Gardiner; honorary secretary-treasurer, Staff-Sergt. James Cooper, jr; assistant secretary-treasurer, Sergt. McDonald; pianist, Mr. R. Cooper; committee, Sergeants Pingle, F. Cooper, Corp. Cokers, Corp. Barnwell, Corp. E. Jones, Sergt. Carpenter, Sergt. Crabble, Royal Scots; Bom. Linn.

## THANKSGIVING PARADE IN TORONTO.

With the annual inspection of the Queen's Own and Grenadiers on Thanksgiving Day the military season in Toronto might well be said to have been brought to a close. Increased interest was taken in the inspection this year, owing to the fact that part of the Gowski Cup competition had to be decided in daylight and in the open air. While