

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

## Regimental Notes.

Pte. Dunning, a member of the band of the York and Lancaster Regiment, now stationed at Halifax, suicided last week, blowing his brains out with a shot from his rifle. He has had attacks of insanity.

Christopher Hanlon, a survivor of the six hundred participants in the famous charge at Balaclava, and now a resident of Toronto, is petitioning the British authorities for an increase in his pension, which is now a shilling a day. He served 24 years in all.

It has been suggested that a detachment from the Fifth Royal Scots, Montreal, should attend, without arms, at the ceremonies connected with the unveiling of the Burns statue at Albany, N. Y., next month. The event will be celebrated by the Caledonian societies of the entire continent.

A former member of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, Pte. A. F. Cotton, who removed to British Columbia last spring, has won a high place in the grand aggregate of the provincial meeting and is amongst those likely to be chosen to represent the province at the D. R. A. meeting at Ottawa.

A portable military railway, brought from France on the "Chateau Leoville," and consigned to Mr. E. Rodier, of Montreal, is at the Drill Hall there. It is according to a plan adopted by the French Minister of War. The sections are about twenty feet in length. The supports are movable trucks that rest on heavy planks. This portable line renders it possible to move heavy artillery over marches which would otherwise be impassable. Sir Adolphe Caron is expected to examine the invention in Montreal shortly.

Capt. R. J. Wicksteed, law clerk of the Commons, and formerly of the Montreal Garrison Artillery, was the host at a happy little supper party gathered last Saturday evening at Ottawa in honour of Quarter-Master-Sergt. Edwards, of the 6th, who has been making a brief stay in this city. Capt. Wicksteed having conceived the idea that a meeting of representatives of corps in which he had served would be interesting by reason of the reminiscences, happily carried the idea into effect, his company in consequence spending a thoroughly pleasant evening.

The sculptor Percy Wood writes that the castings of the Shapshooters' memorial to be erected in honour of Privates Osgood and Rogers, was completed by the founders on Aug. 1st, with the result that a casting of peculiar excellence has been obtained. The work will shortly be shipped to Canada. Mr. Wood, who sailed by the Etruria on Saturday to fulfil professional engagements in the United States, will be present at the unveiling in Ottawa. He has presented a cast of his bust of Professor Owen to the Canadian National Gallery, and it will be placed in the collection at Ottawa.

The correspondent of the Toronto *Mail* who interviewed Major-General Cameron upon his arrival in Kingston to take over the command of the Royal Military College, writes as follows:—"General Cameron is short in stature, sharp-featured, spectacled, and grey-haired. He has a moustache, but no whiskers. 'I was surprised,' he said, 'when I was offered command of the college. The offer was most unexpected. After I attended the Fisheries Commission in Washington, I spent some time in travelling on the Continent, and was just about to take a house in Germany to settle down when the position was tendered to me, and I accepted it.' His children, of whom he has several, are now attending school in England. They, with Mrs. Cameron, will probably not come to Kingston until next year."

Lieut. Henry C. Chamberlin, of the 43rd Battalion, who has just returned from his trip as a member of this year's Canadian team for Wimbledon intends to remove to British Columbia to reside, and is about to start for New Westminster. He is one of the three famous shooting brothers of that name who have so often won renown for themselves and their corps in provincial and Dominion contests. Lieut.

## Topics of the Week.

Every now and again certain influential city papers may be noticed ringing the changes upon the well-worn subject of the relative merits of rural and city corps, and always from the standpoint of admirers of the latter. Here is the latest, an editorial utterance of the *Montreal Star*:

"The idea that has been entertained throughout the old provinces for some time is that it would be a good thing for the country if, instead of scattering the militia grant over a lot of country battalions which are of very little benefit, the money was expended in making better provision for the needs of the city regiments. It is not the country battalions but the city regiments that are called upon in the hour of need, and to keep them all on the same footing is not wise."

Now, it just depends on what the need is. Should a regiment be required for a day or a week's service, look to the city for it; should, however, a lengthy campaign be called for, by all means let the burden be divided between country and city. However willing they may be to serve, it is not fair to ask the young men of the towns to desert their offices and workshops, incur financial losses they can ill afford, and inconvenience their employers—including those whose patriotism makes them readily consent to be so put about, whilst the youth of the rural districts, whose services from their nature may more readily be temporarily dispensed with, are denied the privilege of joining in the campaign. There are certainly defects in the present system of maintaining and training rural corps, but these defects are, it is to be hoped, but a temporary bar to our obtaining even better than the good value secured at present for the outlay upon this important section of the militia.

Rumour has it, according to a Montreal paper, that Lieut.-Col. Ouimet, Speaker of the Commons, is about to resign the command of the 65th Battalion. Should the rumour prove true, the loss will be one to the militia generally. Amongst the officers of the 65th a worthy successor will doubtless be found, but the force as a whole will be sorry to see the retirement of so prominent a public man from active participation in military affairs. However well disposed non-military friends in parliament may be, there is nothing like the personal interest incident to holding a command to incite an influential politician to vigorous action in the House.

Lord Wolseley recently issued a memorandum from the war office, stating that the commander-in-chief had been considering the reports on field-firing at home, in India and the colonies, and that he was "satisfied with the improvement manifested, particularly in India, in carrying out these practices." The memorandum then goes on to recommend, on the authority of his Royal Highness, that "certain features incidental to the attack and defence of positions" should be introduced in order to give an air of reality to the practice,