

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Comment and Criticism.

WE have been asked to announce that the tug-of-war in the Montreal Garrison Artillery's Jubilee Tournament, to be held in the Victoria Rink on the evening of the twenty-first, is open to teams of five (four and a captain) members of any military corps in the Dominion. We hope that many outside corps will send representatives, so as to make the event as national in character as possible. Write for particulars to R. H. M. Bremner, honorary secretary.

NEWS of preparations for military celebrations of the jubilee are coming in more slowly than we could desire, but we hope before the anniversary arrives to hear of general preparations throughout the Dominion. There is to our mind no form which a celebration could take more appropriate than displays of the force which is intended not to make war, but is organized specially to maintain peace. The fact that a large number of troops will be in camp on the 21st June will to some extent facilitate large gatherings, and we earnestly hope that some action worthy of the country may speedily be taken. We will place our columns unreservedly at the service of any organization proposing a demonstration, and will render assistance to it in any way in our power.

THE tournament at Halifax, of which we publish the skeleton programme, promises to be exceptionally good, for that city is the only one in Canada where the help of the Imperial army and navy can be

invoked to aid the militia. We are particularly glad to see a regular officer consenting to act as secretary. We would draw special attention to the shifting ordnance competition, and as there are many garrison artillery organizations within easy reach of Halifax we hope they will unite to make that feature a brilliant success.

THE reception which Ottawa accorded the Governor-General on his return last Thursday was a most magnificent success, and sufficiently demonstrated the failure of Mr. O'Brien's visit to the Capital to secure the sympathy of any of our citizens of standing. From beginning to end of the preparations the kindest feeling prevailed, and at the reception the absence of any formality and the smoothness with which things worked were conspicuous. The militia corps, though they did not participate in their official capacity, anxiously pressed forward to honor the Queen's representative, and while one corps manned his carriage shafts, two others formed the majority of his mounted escort. While the action of some young men in other cities in resenting Mr. O'Brien's meddlesome visit is quite understandable, Ottawa certainly chose the more dignified way to vindicate her loyalty.

BY the tariff of Customs which has been in force up to the present time all articles when imported by and for the use of the army, navy, and the Canadian militia, viz: "Arms, military and naval clothing, musical instruments for bands, military stores and munitions of war", were admitted free of duty. In the resolutions which were recently adopted by the House of Commons and which were put in force by the Customs Department on the 13th ultimo, the words "Canadian militia" were left out. At first sight this would appear to be nothing more serious than a clerical error, but two cases have come to our notice during the last few days in which clothing and band instruments imported by commanding officers for the use of their regiments have been refused free admission, and we understand that the Department of Customs state that the change was made intentionally, and owing to some members of the force interpreting the act in a too liberal manner. If any abuses have taken place in the past—and we cannot see how they could to any great extent—the department would be justified in taking steps to prevent their recurrence in the future, but to saddle the whole force with a duty of nearly 50 per cent. upon those articles of uniform and equipment for which they pay out of their own pocket, would be a most serious blow to its efficiency. We hope that it is only necessary to point this out. We are quite certain that any abuses that have occurred or could occur are not at all likely to be as great as those which are open to occur in connection with the two favored services, where the greatest latitude of construction has always been allowed.

NOW that the date for the annual camps is drawing near it may be profitable to ponder on what the general officer commanding has to say in his last annual report respecting the system. He says: "Having only these two camps to see I was able to make myself thoroughly ac-