

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

First Year.
VOL. I, No. 23.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 13th October, 1885.

\$1.50 per Annum in advance
Single Copies Five Cents.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,
Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

This is the season to organize the winter drills of city corps. Do not put it off until the drill sheds are unbearably cold and the members have mapped out an independent course of amusements for their winter evenings. If you do they will consider the drills an intrusion and a bore, and will shirk them if they can, while if they have first made arrangements for them they will always take them into consideration in making future arrangements, and the consequence will be a cheerful and much larger attendance. Another hint. You want something more interesting than the mere drills, especially at the beginning of the season when squad drill is on, to draw the men, and this ought to be provided either in the shape of a recreation room, of a company athletic club or football or snowshoe association, or in competition for prizes or places for proficiency in drill. Each commander can think of something that will suit his local surroundings, and will be wise if he energetically carries out the idea.

The rapidity with which the feeling in favor of abolishing sighting shots at matches has spread is something new in the history of rifle shooting, and we should be glad to know what has caused such unanimity in this case, when reforms of so radical a nature are usually brought about only after a long struggle. It was certainly a surprise to the officials at the Dominion meeting to find that the competitors, to a man, wanted the sighting shots abolished, and now the New Bruns-

wick Provincial Association has pronounced their doom, although their treasury is empty and this was always a reliable source of revenue. The first associations to dispense with them seem to have been the Queen's Own, in Toronto, and the 43rd, in Ottawa, both of which have just concluded successful meetings on the new basis. We shall be glad to hear from any source the results of conducting matches without their aid.

This week we publish the prize lists of two successful battalion associations, the Queen's Own and the 43rd, and an examination of them will show a radical difference in their methods of work. In the first case there are so many competitors that the number of matches has to be kept down, and a number of results depend on the same scores. In the second case, where fewer competitors were expected, it was possible to break the programme up into several smaller matches, and there was time for trying experiments. In each case satisfaction was given, and in each case the men were prepared for next year's Dominion experience by having to fire without sighting shots.

Major Anderson's score in the 43rd R. A. skirmishing match amounts to a record. The conditions were five shots advancing at the double and five retiring in quick time between 400 and 150 yards. Twenty seconds were allowed for each shot, and in that time the rifle had to be loaded, the sight adjusted, and the shot fired. The targets were the smaller D.R.A. skirmishing targets, 4 feet wide by 30 inches high, marked with the upper part of the bodies of two men firing; the lower half of the target was considered the body and counted five points, a strip 10 inches high above this, the head, counted three, and the remaining 5 inches in height 2. They were left up for the whole ten shots. Major Anderson began with a head hit, and then made nine body hits in succession, placing all these shots, at different irregular but known distances, in a strip 15 inches high by 4 feet wide, and scoring 48 out of a possible 50.

From many sources we have received enthusiastic praise of the Fredericton camp, everything from the commandant to the weather coming in for a share of the laudation. Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G., is well known here, having taken a turn in this district before being appointed to the Infantry School Corps. We have therefore especial pleasure in reproducing further notes of a valued correspondent, detailing some of the doings at this camp.

We notice that Major Geo. Snartt, late of the Dufferin Rifles, has in conjunction with a partner, assumed the proprietorship and editorship of the *Welland Telegraph*, an enterprising weekly newspaper published in the thriving little town of the same name. Major Snartt is well known, not only locally but throughout Canada, as a successful rifle shot, having fired this year in the Governor General's match, and he carries with him into his new enterprise the good wishes of the GAZETTE, and, we are sure of every Canadian rifleman.