

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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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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Comment and Criticism.

OUR contributors, both present and prospective, are reminded that by the postal regulations they are permitted to send newspaper manuscript and printers' proof sheets, whether corrected or not, through the mails at the rate of one cent per four ounces, prepaid, "provided that no letter or other communication intended to serve the purpose of a letter be enclosed, and that the package be sent in covers open at the ends or sides, or otherwise so put up as to admit of the contents being, if necessary, easily withdrawn for examination to secure compliance with this provision." Under this regulation, regimental notes and the like, intended for insertion in the MILITIA GAZETTE, without change, can be sent in unsealed envelopes even from British Columbia for a one-cent stamp. The words "Newspaper Manuscript," should be endorsed above the address.

THE plan of changing regimental adjutants at comparatively frequent intervals has been adopted both by the Imperial regular forces and by the English volunteers, and now we see that the United States army has followed suit, and has limited the duration of an officer's services as adjutant to three years. It is obvious that this change is in the direction of increased general efficiency, and we should like to see the same plan adopted wherever possible in our militia force. With the rural corps it would be difficult, for, as a rule, each company organization is complete in itself, and it would be hard to find a place for a retiring adjutant, so

that now he usually remains at his post until by lapse of time he gets his promotion to a majority. But in those city corps in which promotion is by seniority there would be no such practical difficulty, while it would be excellent training to have as many subalterns as possible undergo a turn of orderly room work and adjutant's parade duty. It may be argued that the service would not be so efficiently performed—then so much the worse for the regiment which has only one man fit to fill any particular post, for not until the weakness is remedied will the regiment be fit for actual service. But all this is a mere suggestion contingent upon the plan of permanently paid adjutants not being adopted.

THE *Manitoban's* militia editor endorses the suggestion made by us to adopt paid adjutants for the city corps. Commenting upon our remarks he says:—The suggestion made by the MILITIA GAZETTE that graduates of the R. M. C. should be appointed might in some cases be advantageously carried out, but being a graduate from the college by no means fits a man for this important position. An adjutant should be not only thoroughly well up in his drill and duties but should be active, intelligent and pushing, and above all a gentleman, one that would command the respect of both officers and men. A young fellow just from college might find it rather a hard matter to get on with officers, some of whom have grown grey in the service, especially if he had to introduce what in his opinion were reforms, but in the opinion of his seniors were mere petty details.

THE following plan suggests itself as one that would be both feasible and popular; any officer in a militia battalion of not less than one year's service, substantive rank, could be recommended by his commanding officer, and on approval by headquarters should proceed to a military school for a long course; on his obtaining a first-class certificate he should be appointed to one of the permanent corps, to take rank from the date of his appointment, but without pay until a vacancy should occur in the adjutancy of a regiment, when the senior of the list should be offered the post, and if he refuses it then the next senior, and so on until a man who wishes to go to the part of the country where the vacancy occurs is secured. Any officer who refuses three appointments should be dropped from the list of the permanent corps to which he may have been attached. While waiting for an appointment an officer could continue to serve in the corps from which he was first appointed, or in special cases could continue at the school as an attached officer. This arrangement would probably prove more popular with the force at large than having all these appointments given to young men who have already secured an engineer's education at the public expense.

WE begin in this issue the publication of an article concerning the Department of Militia and Defence, giving full particulars of the work done in each branch of the Department since Confederation. This will be found most complete, and will be of great value for reference, as the statements are official. The article is expected to run through five or six issues.

SIR FRED. MIDDLETON proposes to give a second lecture, on the duties of officers on outpost work, on Monday evening next, in the drill hall. We hope to see all in Ottawa interested in militia work invited and in attendance.

INVENTIONS are multiplying so rapidly in the direction of improvements in ordnance and ammunition that any attempt to keep pace with them would be a useless task. Amongst the latest are two reported from the States. Lieut. Zalinski's gun, to fire a dynamite-charged projectile by compressed air is not altogether new, but it is quite lately that it has been decided to build a swift steamer to carry these guns. As if this were not bad enough, Mr. John Ericsson now comes forward and announces that the *Destroyer* system, which includes a submarine gun of 16 inches calibre, firing a projectile 25 feet long, filled with 300 lbs. guncotton, with a velocity exceeding 300 feet in three seconds, so completely solves the problem of applying sub-marine artillery for defending harbors that he has no occasion to waste time in the consideration of any other method.

Personal.

Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., of the Manitoba military district, and Mrs. Houghton, are in town at the Russell.

Lieut. George Crockett, 82nd Batt., Charlottetown, has joined the Infantry School at Fredericton to take a special course. He has held for nine years past a provisional commission.

Major Shippy Spurr, 72nd Second Annapolis Batt. of infantry, of Malvern square, Annapolis county, Nova Scotia, has joined the Fredericton school to take a short course. He already holds a first-class volunteer certificate.

Major Elijah Purdie, adjutant of the 82nd "Queen's County" battalion of infantry, Charlottetown, P.E.I., went to Fredericton last month to attend the infantry school, having crossed Northumberland Straits in one of the ice boats. He proposes to take a special course for a first-class certificate.

The *Manitoban* in referring to the words of praise of Col. Powell's valuable services, which have from time to time appeared in these columns, thus describes the work done by another officer who it claims has not received due recognition. Lieut.-Col. Peebles, the paymaster and director of stores of this district, was at his desk from early morn until dusk at the outbreak, and long before the brigade office staff, under Lieut.-Col. Jackson, entered on its duties, he had inaugurated a thorough system to which much of the success of the supply and pay departments is due, and had borne the burden and heat of the day for the most critical period when everything had to be evolved out chaos. It is hoped that some recognition of Lieut.-Col. Peebles' services will yet be made, as he has not yet received even the medal.

Major Perley, headquarters staff, and formerly captain of the New Brunswick engineers, has been visiting St. John, and was warmly welcomed by hosts of friends, and congratulated on his recent promotion. Major Perley takes the deepest interest in the militia, and on the subject of shooting is as keen as ever.

The new commander of the Queen's Own, Lieut.-Col. D. H. Allan, is forty-five years of age, a native of Ontario, and a barrister by profession. His military record goes back to 1864, when he joined No. 1 company of the 28th battalion, Stratford, Ont., as a private. In March, 1866, he went to Toronto to attend the military school, then conducted by Imperial officers, and while there attached himself to A company of the Queen's Own, in order to avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded to get some extra drill. That June the Fenian raid occurred, which gave Private Allan the chance of seeing active service for the first time, for he procured a permanent transfer to his new corps and, with the consent of the officers of the school, accompanied them to the front and participated in the fight at Ridgeway, returning to Toronto a sergeant. He secured a first-class certificate at the school. Taking up his residence in Toronto somewhat later, he continued his connection with the Queen's Own, being promoted successively from the ranks till now he finds himself in command of the regiment. As a captain he took much interest in his company, especially in rifle shooting, in which

branch of military proficiency he has never ceased to warmly advocate the more thorough training of the active force. He was for many years chairman of the regimental rifle committee, and as such, coupled with the fact of his being himself an excellent shot, he has been the means of bringing the regiment into the position of being, as a shooting corps, second to none in the Dominion. During the campaign of 1885 he was second in command of the contingent of his corps which formed part of the Battleford column.

Lieut.-Col. Wm. T. Baird, whose retirement from the paymastership of No. 8 district was gazetted on the 5th, can count half a century's service in the militia of his country. Col. Baird's career began by his volunteering as a member of the Fredericton rifles, and he saw his first service during the boundary line troubles and in the so-called Canadian rebellion. Three years after, in 1841, he aided in organising a rifle company in Woodstock, and was commissioned lieutenant. During the Orange riot at Woodstock, in 1847, he commanded the guard for the defence of the town. In 1849 he obtained command of the Woodstock company, and his performance of his duties so well justified the choice that to-day every old resident of Woodstock remembers the proficiency and activity of Capt. Baird's men. The year 1859 saw the company ordered out by the lieutenant-governor to suppress the railway riots, and they were suppressed. In 1860 and 1861, Capt. Baird's service was of a more peaceful and pleasing nature, for in the former year he commanded the guard of honor to the Prince of Wales, at Fredericton; and in the latter the guard to Prince Alfred, at Woodstock. The four years following, however, brought him sterner business. In 1862, he organized and commanded the post service on the frontier for the prevention of desertion, in connection with the Trent affair. The posts were located at Woodstock, Florenceville, Tobique, and Grand Falls, and here he was occupied for three months. On the 1st January, 1863, he received the merited honor of being gazetted lieutenant-colonel, and June 8th of the same year he was gazetted deputy quartermaster general, in which capacity he went with the company assembled in 1865, under orders of Col. Anderson, commanding on the frontier, to St. Andrews to repel the Fenian force. In 1865, by a general order, Col. Baird was placed in command of the 2nd battalion service militia, 26 days in camp at Fredericton. The brigade was inspected July 8th, 1865, by General Doyle, who bore strong testimony to the discipline of the camp. In 1866, Col. Baird again proved his efficiency as an officer, by organizing and commanding a battalion 400 strong, which was detailed for frontier service at the time of the Fenian raid. In 1868, Col. Baird organized the 67th battalion Carleton light infantry. During the same year he commanded the guard of honor to Prince Arthur at Woodstock. In 1869, Col. Baird was appointed paymaster of military district No. 8, and in 1870 was made district storekeeper in this city. And now after a lifetime spent in militia service, the last eighteen years being almost exclusively engaged in his official duties, the regulations are such that he is now only entitled to a gratuity of two years' pay, \$1,400 in all.

Recent Deaths.

The news of the death of Capt. C. F. S. Spry, commanding No. 1 company, 35th Simcoe Foresters, has been received. Capt. Spry was one of the youngest officers in the force, and was probably the youngest who served through the rebellion of 1885. He was buried with military honors on the 18th. The procession was one of the largest ever seen in Barrie. Among the mourners were Messrs. C. G. Fortier, collector Inland Revenue, Hamilton, grandfather; H. G. Fortier and W. H. Fortier, Toronto, and H. D. Fortier, Hamilton, uncles of the deceased, and J. Ross Robertson and James Greenfield, Toronto. The pallbearers were Major Rogers, Major Ward, Lieut. O'Brien, Lieut. Crease, Lieut. McKee and Capt. Smith. The firing party, composed of members of Capt. Spry's late company, was commanded by Capt. Powell.

Lieut.-Col. Martin H. Peters, who retired from the command of the N. B. G. A., two years ago, died on the 5th inst., at his residence, Carleton, at the age of 67, from the effects of an accident which he had sustained a week previously, while engaged in rescuing goods from a burning building. The deceased gentleman was better known as Dr. Peters, he having, for twenty-five years, practised, with success, the profession of medicine. He was the son of the Hon. Charles J. Peters, the last attorney-general of New Brunswick appointed by the Crown. He gave much of his time and ability to the military service of the province. Colonel Peters was connected with the artillery for a period of over thirty years, and always took the deepest interest in his corps and the militia. After the retirement of Colonel Foster, he commanded the corps until he reached the limit of age. The Carleton battery was for a long time commanded by him, and was considered most efficient in every way. The funeral took place on the 8th, and was attended by a

large number of citizens and military men, among whom were Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G.; Lieut.-Col. Blaine, and several officers of the 62nd Fusiliers, and Lieut.-Col. Armstrong and officers of the artillery.

The *Manitoban* publishes a portrait of the late lamented Lt.-Col. MacKeand, who died so suddenly and unexpectedly of hemorrhage of the lungs on Sunday the 13th, and gives some account of his life, which was thus cut short at the early age of 37. He was born in Scotland and early was brought to Hamilton, Ont., where at ten years of age he entered the employ of Messrs. Turner, gradually working up to the posts of book-keeper and confidential clerk.

In 1879 the firm established a branch in Winnipeg, of which Messrs. MacKeand and Jas. Turner, jr., assumed control and later got into their own hands.

In 1869 deceased joined the 13th Hamilton battalion as a private, and was a lieutenant in it when he left that city. After his arrival in Winnipeg he accepted the lieutenancy of the infantry company on the death of Lieut. Lindsay, of which two months later, on the resignation of Capt. Carruthers, he assumed command. When the 90th was organized the infantry went in as A company and Capt. MacKeand was assigned the junior majority.

When the rebellion broke out the c. o. was in Egypt and Major MacKeand took command of the battalion on the field, succeeding to the actual command upon the lamented death of Col. Kennedy. How well he and his corps acquitted themselves on the banks of the Saskatchewan is now matter of history.

Seldom does it fall to the lot of an individual, adds the *Manitoban*, to be more deservedly popular than was Colonel MacKeand. "Stainless man and perfect gentleman" are the words which most accurately characterize him. He was content to be the darling of his regiment because he was its gallant leader. He sought for no false popularity. He despised everything in the way of gratuitous self-advertising. But little was heard of him personally during the progress of the late rebellion campaign, yet no corps gave a braver account of itself than that which he commanded. He did not come back to boast of his prowess. No one ever heard him utter a word of that kind; but whenever work was to be done he was willing to do it. He was an officer and a gentleman.

It is difficult to think of his untimely and most lamentable end without giving utterance to expressions which might seem extravagant. It is safe to say, however, that he cannot be praised too highly because in life he neither sought for, nor desired, praise except from his works. He was content to do his duty in the most faithful yet most unobtrusive manner.

Col. MacKeand's untimely death is a real bereavement to the 90th battalion, and a severe blow to the citizens of Winnipeg generally. His mournfully interrupted career of honor and usefulness will be deeply deplored by all true Canadians. His nearer friends may rest assured that Col. MacKeand's name will long live in the memory of his grateful countrymen.

Drill With a Tactical Object in View.

IN what has been written on the simplification of drill it was suggested that all drill movements should be carried out with a tactical object in view, which should be explained to the men before the movement is made, so that the men can understand the why and wherefore of what they are doing and execute it intelligently.

It is proposed to show how this can be done and for shortness only infantry battalion drill will be referred to, though the same principle can be applied to the drill of cavalry and artillery.

In the first place in modern war, even in savage war, the whole of the eight companies of a battalion would not be placed in line. Two companies at least would be left in reserve, and four at the most. Consequently in every drill movement the tactical object of reserves should be kept in view, and two to four companies should manoeuvre separately in rear of the others.

The mere extension of troops into open order is only an expedient to advance under fire without undue losses, after the troops are placed in position; consequently, each manoeuvre involving such an extension should be first carried out only with the object of placing the different units (still in compact order) in the proper places, i.e., at the proper distances and intervals. If this is done and the reason of it explained to the men then they will soon realize what they are doing and do it intelligently, causing them all to work to one common end. Then the manoeuvre can be repeated, allowing the men to extend as required.

Before leaving the parade ground, the colonel should explain the first manoeuvre, and in what direction he will suppose the enemy to be found when the battalion appears on the parade ground. One company should move on in advance as an advance guard; the colonel should go with this company and personally place it opposite the supposed

direction of the enemy. He can then ride back in time to give the necessary directions for the other companies to take position to the right or left of it. He can then suppose one flank as the most threatened one and place the greater portions of his reserve companies in rear of it. He can then suppose one flank attacked and send out one company or more from his reserves to take position to oppose it. If the other flank is not being seriously opposed he can assume the offensive there by making the flank company on that flank move forward 100 yards; or he may suppose the enemy opposite that flank too strongly entrenched to be attacked successfully and withdraw that company to the reserve. Other combinations can be easily thought of, but before any such movement can be made, or during its execution, he should ride round and explain it to the men so that they may thoroughly understand what is being done. Another plan is for the colonel to previously examine the ground and draw up a scheme for the successive movements, and dictate them to the company leaders, who will then explain them as they occur to the men of their respective companies.

All this should be first done with the companies kept together in close order so that the relative position of each company may be clearly and distinctly seen. Then the manoeuvre can be repeated, carrying out the actual extensions required.

Next day a defensive operation could be carried out, but in this case a "skeleton" enemy should be made to attack according to a pre-arranged plan, but care must be taken that the attacking troops do not advance too quickly, which is a very common fault.

On debouching on to the drill ground in column of route the colonel may say that cavalry are charging down from the left flank suppose. Then he would cause all the battalion, except the two leading companies, to form line to the left on the rear company, and make each company open fire as it gets into position. With such a tactical supposition the men see the object of the manoeuvre and appreciate it. Even in practising the attack, a cavalry charge may be supposed at any moment, and the supports and reserves ordered to take up the most rapidly executed formation in the required direction to meet it.

Drill executed in this way becomes far more interesting, as it gives a "living" interest, so to speak, which appeals to all. In such drill markers are not required, and the whole of it partakes, as nearly as possible, of the nature of reality; but whatever movement is carried out it should be executed with smartness, regularity and order.

A SOLDIER.

Trial of the Nordenfelt Gun.

ON the 14th Captain Douglas, accompanied by Colonel Bacon and Major Anderson, fired some ball cartridge out of his little three barrel Nordenfelt gun on the rifle range, firing at 100 and later at 500 yards. Some very good practice was made; when the gun was fired slowly so as to give pauses between the several rounds all three hits were frequently bulls' eyes. In rapid firing the jar of the lever seemed to be too much for the weight of the piece, and had a tendency to gradually work it round to the left; this was particularly noticeable when the gun was on its wheels on the crust; when it was on the tripod it stood steadier, and possibly on solid ground this defect, if such it can be called, would be entirely overcome. But if firing at the front of a column this gradual travelling across the face of it would be rather an advantage than otherwise. No time was taken in the rapid firing, but there seems no reason to doubt the claim of the inventor that 500 rounds per minute could be discharged.

The gun consists of three barrels like Martini barrels, fixed in an iron framework in a horizontal row. The breech mechanism works in a box about a foot long, 6 inches wide and 3 inches deep, and is operated by a lever moving on a horizontal plane on the right side of the breech, the forward movement loading and discharging the three barrels and the return movement extracting the fired shell and cocking the several plungers. The strong point about the mechanism is its wonderful simplicity, the various parts being removable by hand without any unscrewing or unbolting, with the one exception of the cartridge extractions, which are fastened to the breech bolts with small countersunk screws. Even the nuts on the carriage and trail are provided with levers so that they can be turned without a wrench. The sights are affixed to the iron framework which holds the barrels, and to our mind are too coarse and too close together to permit of nice aiming; this, however, is a point that could easily be changed if found desirable. The back sight has a tangent screw by which it is elevated, and the gun is trained both vertically and horizontally with screws and clamps, the operator sitting upon a small saddle attached to the trail. The gun is mounted on a tripod stand for rocky places, and wheels and axles for ordinary ground; the gun and the tripod weigh about 190 pounds; with the wheels and axle 319 pounds. Two men can readily carry the former, the tripod legs forming a convenient means of transporting it, whilst one man can move

the gun on its wheels with great facility. When put upon wheels the tripod is not removed, but two of the legs are turned backwards and lie close beside the trail, which forms the third leg.

A three inch field piece is on its way from England, with which we hope to see some good practice made.

A New Gun Sleigh.

WE have been shown photographs of an adaptation, by Captain C. W. Drury, A Battery, Regt. C. A., of the old Woolwich gun sleighs to suit the modern field guns, which appears to answer excellently. The sleighs have been in store since the time usually designated as "the year one," having been found anything but a success in the way they were previously used, that is with a single sleigh carrying the gun only, necessitating special equipment, and preventing the whole detachment or reasonable supplies of ammunition from being carried.

The new sleigh is made up of two old pattern sleighs. One carries the gun and carriage for summer use; the other the limber; the two, when limbered up, forming a "bob sleigh," which, as is well known, will travel on winter roads better than any other pattern of sleigh. The conversion of the old sleigh is as follows: The brackets which supported the gun are removed and separated sufficiently to take the axle-tree arms in the trunnion holes. This necessitates new transoms, as the old ones are not long enough; the track of the runners remaining the same. The point of support of the axles is the same height as the nave of the wheels, so that there is no undue strain on the trail when the gun is fired. The gun is unlimbered and limbered up, and the trail lowered to the ground as in the summer; the horses are placed in the limber shafts, the point of draught being from swingle trees on the sleigh, instead of the splinter bar, which is too high for winter draught; everything else remaining as in summer—the same equipment, same drill, every gunner in the same place—in fact, the runners simply taking the place of the wheels.

At no time in winter would it be advisable to leave headquarters for a march without summer equipment, as travelling—especially in January—is very uncertain, runners and wheels being required alternately. While the new arrangement allows of rapid and convenient change, the old Woolwich system would be entirely at a deadlock when bare ground was reached.

The Department of Militia and Defence and the Military Force of Canada.

UP to the time of Confederation, the British Government, which then held all the fortifications, barracks, naval and military reserve lands, &c., maintained detachments of Imperial troops in each of the provinces, and every province had a more or less efficient volunteer militia as auxiliary thereto.

Her Majesty's Government, however, which never ceases to urge upon all colonial branches of the empire the adoption of every practicable measure of self-defence, and had indeed favored the union of the provinces especially for the facilities thereby offered for their mutual protection, now offered every assistance, by the loaning of Imperial officers and otherwise, towards the organization of the military power of confederated Canada, and in 1869 commenced the gradual evacuation, which resulted in the withdrawal, within two years, of the whole of the regular troops from the new Dominion, except from Halifax, and in the transfer to the Government of Canada of all military and naval properties, fortifications, barracks, &c., except those on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, where certain reserve lands were retained. These have recently been also given up by the war office and the admiralty, so that to-day the only occupation by Imperial forces in Canada consists of the garrison and naval establishment at Halifax, N.S., and the naval establishment at Victoria, B.C.

Canada was not slow in accepting the responsibility of organizing a military system. To the late Sir George Cartier is due the "Militia and Defence Act of 1868," which has formed the basis of an organization since very largely developed, but on practically identical lines, and which has been reproduced in all its main features by the amended and consolidated Act of 1883, introduced by the present Minister of Militia and Defence, Sir Adolphe Caron.

The military system of Canada consists, in brief, of:—

I.—A permanent departmental or administrative organization, a branch of the civil government of the Dominion.

II.—A permanent military staff at headquarters, and in each of the twelve military districts into which Canada is divided.

III.—A small number of permanent corps, the members of which enlist for three years' continuous service under pay, and which, while doing garrison duty and available at a moment's notice for field service, form at the same time schools of military instruction, to which officers

and non-commissioned officers of the volunteer service can attach themselves for courses of study and training, under pay, to qualify them for militia commissions. These instructional facilities are in addition to those afforded by the Royal Military College of Canada, with its highly organized staff, and body of gentlemen cadets undergoing a four years' course.

IV.—The active militia, consisting, in round numbers, of 37,000 volunteers, citizen soldiers in the truest sense, armed and equipped by Government, but paid only for the short periods of annual drill required by the regulations, or when called out by the Crown for the defence of the country from invasion or for the suppression of rebellion, or when ordered out upon written requisition of magistrates (to which they are likewise liable at all times) in aid of the civil power.

The law provides for the maintenance of a due strength of active militia by ballot, when necessary; but so high has proved the military spirit of the people that the department has always had applications for permission for the organization of volunteer corps, much in excess of the quota for the proper equipment and training of which the resources of the department would provide.

V.—The reserve militia, consisting, as the statute declares, of "the whole of the men who are not serving in the active militia," between the ages of 18 and 60, with a few clearly defined exemptions; it comprises therefore the entire able-bodied male population, liable to military service upon emergency, but neither mustered, armed nor drilled. The strength of the reserve, according to former enrolments, and the present statistics of the census branch, Department of Agriculture, would now be about 1,000,000 men, whom the law divides into four classes, according to their age and the strength of family claims upon them for support.

The administrative duties of the Department of Militia and Defence may be briefly classified as dealing with:—

(a.) Fortifications, armaments and ammunition, and other matters connected with the defences; and the proper organization of the militia of Canada, for the protection of this portion of the empire against foreign attack.

(b.) The maintenance of the militia in equal readiness for action in aid of the civil power, for the internal peace of the country and the supremacy of the Crown.

(c.) The various matters requisite for keeping up the efficiency of the force maintained for both of the above purposes; clothing and equipment, training, pay, &c.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE

is charged, under the statute, with the responsible administration of all militia affairs, under the Governor-General in Council. His department, the great and ever-increasing importance of which to the protection and security of the country is now generally recognized, is composed as follows:—

THE DEPUTY MINISTER

is the permanent official head, under the Minister, of the department.

His office staff consists of a chief clerk, a register clerk, and three corresponding clerks.

The work of this office has steadily increased from the organization of the department down to the present time. The system of registration and index of correspondence here used, it may be observed, met with the marked approval of the members of the Civil Service Commission of 1880, the chairman of which was furnished, at his request, with a memorandum upon it.

The deputy minister, by the minister's authority, has the approval of all financial matters and claims within departmental jurisdiction, and the communication of all departmental decisions upon matters submitted by the general officer commanding and the respective officers of the store and pay branches, the architect of the engineer branch and the superintendent of the cartridge factory.

In this office are also drawn up the reports to council, and resumés of important cases from time to time under consideration, in addition to the usual correspondence with officers of the department and military branch and the public, upon matters such as pay, transport and subsistence, contracts for supplies, claims for compensation in cases of wounds or injuries received on militia service; the pensions of veterans of 1812 are paid from this office; the annual departmental report to Parliament is here compiled and printed, as was also the special report upon the suppression of the North-West rebellion.

THE STORE BRANCH.

The director of stores and keeper of militia properties is responsible for all militia stores, clothing, munitions of war and militia properties entrusted to his charge. The staff of the store branch of the department consisted, when first organized, of the director of stores (a chief clerk in the Civil Service) and three clerks. At present the director is assisted by five clerks, that number being one short of the establishment now authorized.

There are superintendents of stores in each of the military districts, who have charge of the stores and of all military buildings, magazines, &c., not in actual occupation by the military branch of the service. They are assisted by competent storemen. The superintendents act upon all requisitions for issues and return of military stores, when duly approved by the Deputy Minister; and they render monthly reports of the same to the department. At present, these officers also perform the duties of district paymaster for their respective stations.

The store branch is likewise charged with the care of military lands, together with their plans and leases, and the collection of the rents of the numerous properties not in military or departmental occupation which are leased to individuals or corporations.

The Dominion store buildings and magazine at Ottawa are more immediately under the charge of the director of stores, this being also the distributing point for the issue of all clothing for the militia of the Dominion.

The establishment of the Royal Military College and the permanent schools of cavalry, artillery and infantry, has materially increased the work in this branch, in regard to the issues and local purchases of barrack stores required from time to time.

The preparation of forms of tender and contracts for the supply of clothing and other military stores now procured in Canada also appertains to this branch, together with the supervision of the inspection of the articles when received from the contractors. The inspection reports and claims for payment for the same are duly submitted to the Deputy Minister for approval and final action.

A report is submitted annually for incorporation in the printed report of the department.

During the North-West rebellion of 1885, the store branch was put to a severe test in meeting the sudden demands for large supplies of clothing, necessaries and war material then required for actual service in the field; the result proved the department to be equal to the emergency, although the office staff was only augmented by one temporary clerk.

(To be Continued.)

Machine-Guns in the Field.

Some points in Major Anderson's lecture not brought out in our last issue we glean from the *Broad Arrow* as follows:—

All-important in the utilisation of machine guns is that they be placed in the hands of intelligent men, who have been given sufficient opportunities of knowing and practising with their weapons, in order to derive full value from them and save reckless waste of ammunition; the three or more men proposed for each piece should therefore be largely composed of non-commissioned officers, the senior of whom should be a sergeant, beyond this no special provision seems necessary or desirable, and if introduced would only lead to needless expense; twenty-four men might be added to the strength of battalions or drawn from the present establishment for this purpose as considered desirable, and a very much larger number would of course be instructed for employment if required. As it is proposed that each machine gun should become portion of a company, and in the majority of instances be at the disposal of the company officers, no increase of officers is requisite, while if withdrawn by the commanding officer or higher authority for the purpose of being massed, a field officer or other competent officer should be detached to command them and return them to their companies on the completion of the duty. If after trial it be found that more officers are required with them, an increase of two subalterns per battalion should meet the case, attached to the two flank companies, with which they would remain until the machine guns were ordered to mass, fall out with them and each undertake the charge of four, under the guidance of the officer detailed to command them. Regiments of infantry are not one officer too strong for service, and could not afford to give them from present strength, should they be required. A little practice would require to be devoted to some simple system of manœuvring the mules, in order to guard against confusion when brought together in masses.

That the fire of a body of infantry would be immensely increased by the addition of one machine gun per company does not admit of doubt, for by detaching three men to attend to the gun the equivalent of the fire of at least fifty men is obtained, leaving out of the calculation the value to the battalion of being able to manœuvre up to a certain point without firing. Machine guns can as yet scarcely be said to have had a thoroughly impartial trial; from 50 to 100 picked shots are pitted against a machine gun in the hands of men who have had it a few days or weeks, and who will certainly have fired very few shots from it; the result is, in the hurry a jam occurs, or the gun never gets on the target at all; the trial also should not be confined to the results from one gun, but from those or eight of, if possible, a larger number. We feel convinced that if justice be done to the weapon, the results must be very startling and convincing.

The correctness or otherwise of these proposals could with ease be tested by experiment on screens representing a battalion formed for defence, upon which an attack should be delivered by a battalion advancing in every way under regulation conditions, opening fire from the first, and also an attack by the same body supported by eight machine guns, who, occupying a position between 1,200 and 800 yards from the enemy, allowed their own infantry to approach to within 500 yards of the position, and then deliver its attack with combined machine gun and rifle fire. The result of the fire trial cannot be doubted if the machine guns are properly handled, while opportunities for their use by company commanders in detached positions, or working in any way independently, will occur in almost every phase of action; the one danger they have to avoid is artillery fire, and this, considering the mobility that would be attained by mule transport, and the fact that the weapons range up to 2,000 yards, thus offering a large selection of position, ought not to prove in any way an insurmountable difficulty; once in position and massed, machine guns may be depended on to defend their front against all but artillery as certainly as would masses of guns; while if searched out, and suffering from artillery fire, their mobility is ample to admit of their being promptly moved over any country to a safer position. It is with a firm conviction that the case is not being over-stated when we urge that "the nation which neglects to make use of machine guns in the field will not only incur a heavy responsibility, but will undoubtedly suffer severely if opposed to them."

Lieut.-Gen. Lord Chelmsford, G.C.B., opened the discussion that followed by remarking that the infantry may congratulate itself on the fact that a paper like the above emanates from an artillery officer. "I believe," he said, "that when machine-guns were first brought to the front, the artillery thought they ought to have the weapon, to handle it and deal with it. I believe a general opinion now prevails in the artillery that it is an infantry weapon, and that it should be an adjunct to an infantry battalion. I shall be very glad indeed to see the trial recommended by Major Anderson carried out, because it is only by testing the use of machine-guns in the way he proposes that we could really arrive at a conclusion as to whether they could be used as he suggests. I cannot help thinking that if machine-guns opened fire at 1,500 yards, in support of advancing infantry, the artillery, owing to the present long range of rifles, are at a much more serious disadvantage than they used to be. Formerly, the infantry used to look to the artillery to give a great fire at the critical point when the enemy's infantry prepared for a rush upon the position. Now I think that that place can be taken very well by these machine-guns, and, considering that their fire is so deadly at that range at which the attack would become formidable—about 800 yards—I think that unless infantry are given these weapons to help them in the defence of a position they would be at a serious disadvantage. I sincerely trust that whenever we take the field—and most probably we should have to act on the defensive, as we used to do in the Duke of Wellington's time—our infantry may be furnished with machine-guns in order to make up for our smaller numbers. I reiterate my wish that the authorities may give the infantry the opportunity of showing that they are fit to be entrusted with these weapons, and I believe it would be a decided advantage to that arm to be entrusted with them.

Major H. W. L. Hime, R.A., protested against the whole of Major Anderson's lecture, and expressed his entire dissent from what Lord Chelmsford had just said. "We all know," he said, after some preliminary remarks, "that between the Thirty Years' War and the French Revolution the progress of field artillery was very much delayed indeed by a system which was called that of battalion guns. Now the system of Major Anderson is nothing more nor less than one of battalion guns by another name, and, like the rose, it smells just as foul. The machine-gun is a piece of ordnance, and we gunners are the proper people to work it. You contravene the great law of the division of labor if you try to change the infantry soldier into a gunner."

Colonel Eardley Wilmot asked whether attaching machine-guns to the guns would not hamper the guns—one acting at 2,000 yards, the other at 6,000. It seemed to him very doubtful if a battery of machine-guns could protect its own front. A line of skirmishers or a large body of infantry would soon capture it. The line of traversing of machine-guns is very slight. They can pour out a stream of bullets in one direction only, and by circling out they would easily be taken at a disadvantage.

Col. Richardson was of opinion that the question was to a great extent one of economy. He doubted very much whether there are any infantry officers who would not greatly prefer to have a few more infantry, and whether a few more infantry would not do very much greater execution than the substitution of these machine-guns. It is an attempt to make two or three infantry do the work of thirty or forty more. "If the infantry officers prefer a machine-gun to British infantry, then I think it is for them to adopt the machine-gun. As an artillery officer myself,

they are quite welcome to it so far as I am concerned. Field artillery will certainly see machine-guns out of it at all ranges."

Col. Markham, R.A., thought the question was one of transport. If machine-guns were to be used, it should be upon wheels, it should be in batteries. The organization of the batteries is another affair. It would be under the command of the general officer of the division. When an attack was ordered by the infantry, no doubt the machine-guns would be ordered to a certain position. They would get to that position far quicker on wheels than on mules. With regard to their being in the field by themselves without support, he could not conceive a battery of machine-guns being left without support, any more than a battery of breech-loading guns. He thought the great object was to get a valuable arm into the field, and he really thought that the wheels were the best.

The chairman (General Sir E. B. Hamley) thought there was no subject more worthy of discussion than the present, for the art of war has more and more become dependent on the inventions of science. "It is important to all nations, and more especially to ours, and for this reason—that we cannot pretend to compete in numbers of men with the formidable armies of continental powers; but, on the other hand, we are credited with being able to afford to buy expensive equipment with greater ease than they can. If, then, machine-guns can be made to take the efficiency of a certain proportion of men, I think that is a matter upon which the British government may congratulate itself. This is by no means the first time that this question has been discussed at this institution, but I think that hitherto the view has been taken that the machine-gun should be used on the side of defence; and it is perfectly evident that if a force in position can be aided by a number of these machine-guns, which will sweep the avenues of approach to the position, it so far possesses a great advantage. But now we have a fresh proposal, to enlist it on the side of the attack. Well, here again I think it is indisputable that, provided two forces otherwise equal are face to face, and the one that attacks can succeed in bringing up a line of machine-guns at such a distance as can bear effectively upon the enemy's position, an immense advantage will be gained in thus covering the otherwise very difficult attack." As regards Major Anderson's suggestion to attach a machine-gun to every company, to be carried on a mule, the first mule to be accompanied by another with the first supply of ammunition, Gen. Hamley considered that the whole question turned on that point. "I do not know whether any exact calculations have been made on this subject, but I find it stated, in a lecture given here by Lord Charles Beresford, that a Nordenfolt machine-gun can fire 1,000 rounds in a minute, and he also says—I do not know whether it is his own opinion, or whether he is quoting another—that the proper supply of ammunition for each gun should be 10,000 rounds. Now we must remember that the value of the machine-gun consists in its being able to pour an immense volume of bullets on a given space in a given time. If the estimate of 1,000 rounds per minute is correct, the whole 10,000 rounds would be fired away in ten minutes." On the subject of entrusting the machine-guns to the infantry, Gen. Hamley considered they were after all only taking the place of the infantry arm, and that they might be regarded as so many rifle barrels discharging rifle ammunition, and therefore might properly be entrusted to an infantry commander. "At any rate," he said in conclusion, "I dare say we are all agreed upon this, that the weapon is one of great value, and that it would be of great value to the side which should bring it into the field."—(Discussion from *U. Service Gazette*.)

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

THE BENEFITS OF THE MILITARY SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*.

DEAR SIR,—Possibly my age and experience may be considered as sufficient reason for requesting the favor of a little space in the *GAZETTE*, with reference to some extracts from the *Victoria Warbler*, concerning the present schools of instruction. Living in the locality of one of these institutions since its formation has enabled me to observe many things connected with its working and management and provided me also with means of judging of the advantages and faults of the system which the *Warbler* finds fault with. From my previous experience of military matters, I may pass over the remarks from this journal bearing on red-tape and etiquette, as being unworthy of notice, as it is the natural tirade of some friend of the writer, who likely has been forbidden to appear at mess in his shirt-sleeves, or use the spittoon in the ante-room. But if you will allow me, I must at the same time warn you that the writer is not altogether wrong in his ideas, though he does descend to small things, from his ignorance of the true defects and degeneration that we should so jealously guard against. His idea of all cadets wearing one garb, and the extinction of rank is foolish, and he again displays the usual smallness of his kind, by the expression: "If an officer desires to put on airs by wearing his uniform, etc." It is the popular manner of abusing anything military, and it is to be regretted that this paper is not more enlightened. The defects of the old system were exactly what he wishes to revive. It is highly necessary that each one should get practical illustration of the duties of his grade. The *Victoria Warbler* again produces a painful sensation when it rehearses the old bridge story, which I have, with you Mr. Editor, heard recited in different parts of the globe. He says some other foolish things, but I can detect that

he is attempting to approach the truth, and at heart speaks for the good of the militia. Had I been dictating the lines in the paper above quoted, my first appeal to the authorities should be to preserve at whatever cost the standard of education at the schools, by ensuring the gazettement of the best and most efficient officers to the permanent corps, and banish political influence forever. Here is the whole danger to be avoided, and one that must certainly lead some day to the inefficiency we fear. Political appointments carry no guarantee of qualification with them, and officers so gazetted in course of time must succeed to the higher commands, which they never can fill as types of perfection, which is required in order to be superior to the militia at large. If they are not capable of acquitting themselves socially and intellectually as commandants, how can we expect our militia officers and men to seek knowledge and military discipline at the schools. We must not lose sight of the important fact that should be so deeply considered in making these appointments, that the permanent force are not only called upon to do duty as soldiers, but in conjunction with this important work, they are also to act as instructors and patterns to their fellows in the militia. For such institutions in England the pick of the army only are selected, and when we remember that even the poorest of that vast body from which the choice is made have all qualified at the establishments of military learning, we begin to see how inferior our own source of instruction must become. These remarks are only what I have heard from more than one of our present commandants on several occasions, and they are simply true to the letter. It was only the other day that I noticed one of your correspondents astray about the same arguments, and if I remember right he stated that with the exception of a very few all the officers of our permanent force owe their appointments, not to the fortunate circumstance of possessing a Royal Military College certificate, or of being the cream of the militia, but rather to the influence of some political relation or friend. This, Mr. Editor, is the ground for fault-finding, and had the *Victoria Warbler* taken these lines of attack he would have carried with him the support and sympathy of many an old soldier and well wisher of the Canadian militia. As to his argument against the provisional officers; why, I must admit he is quite correct, and even by glancing at the militia list we see that a number of the would-be instructors, the officers of the permanent corps themselves, are still unqualified, while others in the same corps, I have heard it whispered, supposed to hold necessary guarantees of knowledge in three respective branches, are actually without them, or at all events in possession of most imperfect and antiquated certificates, suitable, possibly, if there was no such a thing as a Royal Military College in existence.

GREY HAIRS.

Mess Room Yarns.

"That reminds me."

THE OLD CANNON AT QUEBEC.

The best part of Mr. Atkinson's narrative was his dramatic story of his visit to the citadel.

"An officer," said he, "detailed a man to show me around, and he took me everywhere.

"Noticing a small cannon, half hidden by the snow, as I was about to go, I said in fun: 'I guess I will take it away with me.'"

"Go look at the inscription on the breech," said the soldier, laughingly.

"I looked and read:

"Taken at the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775."

"I saw the soldier had me. It stirred my blood and I wanted to make a fit reply. I read the inscription over again to gain time. Tears came to my eyes. 'Young man,' I said to him, 'you've got the cannon but we've got Bunker Hill.'"

The patriot sun of Maine turned red and actually cried again as he repeated the story.—*Leviston, Me., Journal*.

Regimental Notes.

We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?

Peterborough.—No. 6 company, 57th Batt., is drilling every Thursday evening in the old music hall, and is making good progress.

Ottawa.—Col. J. P. Macpherson repeated his lecture on field fortifications and hasty entrenchments, on Monday night. Many of the headquarters staff were present. Capt. Toller's paper was postponed for a fortnight.

Fredericton.—Corporal Thomas Fancutt, A Co., I. S. C., has lately returned from a five month's attendance at the Signal Station on the Citadel Hill, Halifax, where he received first class certificates from Lt.-Col. E. D. C. O'Brien, R.E., for his attainments in military telegraphy and the signal service. While in Halifax he was attached to the royal engineers, and also received particular recommendation from Capt. H. E. Rawson, the Superintendent of Signals. Corpl. Fancutt will give instructions to the officers and men of the 71st York Batt. of infantry. He is the first man of the Canadian militia who has been attached to the Imperial troops for this purpose. Before leaving Halifax he gave instructions to the three Halifax militia battalions and received a very flattering testimonial from them when leaving for Fredericton.

St. John, N. B.—St. Valentine's day was most enthusiastically celebrated by the sergeants of the 62nd Fusiliers at the regimental club room, when a grand masquerade ball was given, which was one of the most successful of the kind ever given in St. John. Splendid music by the full band of the corps, pretty girls in gay fancy costumes, men in all varieties of dress, sergeants, officers, and privates, in bright scarlet, blending with the many decorations of the rooms, made up a scene to be remembered. There were about 200 dancers on the floor, besides many spectators, and dancing was kept up until a very late hour. A sumptuous supper was served in the non-commissioned officers' room at midnight, when masks were taken off, after which dancing was resumed with even greater zest than before the repast. Great credit is due to the sergeants of the 62nd for the way the entertainment was carried out, and while all worked hard and well, Sergeant-Major Conley, Staff-Sergeants Coleman and Blaine, and Sergeants Strang, Wilson, Rogers, Ewing, Patterson, Stanton and Appleby deserve special mention. Another dance of the same kind may be held on Easter Monday.

The I. S. C. dramatic club from Fredericton played "Never Too Late Too Mend" last week. The *Sun* says: "It is doubtful if an institute audience is often better pleased with themselves, and with the performers, than they were on this occasion."

Quebec.—The 8th Royal Rifles paraded at the drill shed Grande Allée on Tuesday evening, the 15th instant, for the commencement of annual drill. The men have been supplied with new uniforms and presented a splendid appearance. The brass and bugle bands and pioneers were in attendance, and at 9 p.m. the regiment paraded

through the principal streets of the city. The following promotions were notified to the regiment: A company, to be sergeant, Corpl. Duffet; B company, to be color-sergeant, Sergt. J. Mountain; F company, to be color-sergeant, Lance-Sergt. F. P. Ross; to be sergeant, Corpl. R. Presho; to be corporals, Lance-Corpl. W. Jacques and Pte. Wm. Stephens.

No. 3 battery of the Garrison Artillery, under command of Capt. Hy. D. Morgan, are now undergoing their annual training. They have received new uniforms and sealskin wedges. The other officers are Lieuts. D. Morgan and E. Panet. Sergt. Hammond of B battery has been appointed instructor.

THE ROYAL RIFLES' 25TH ANNIVERSARY BALL.

A ball was given by the officers of the 8th Royal Rifles, Quebec, on Monday evening, to the N. C. O's and men, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formation of the regiment. The Academy of Music never presented a more festive appearance. The decorations were military in character and strikingly appropriate. True to their motto, "Volens et Valens," the old corps gave ample proof last night that their readiness and valor are not confined to duty but can be kindly manifested in extending true hospitality to their fellow soldiers and friends. Amongst others invited were all past officers of the regiment, the officers of the battery and cavalry schools at the Citadel, and the commanding officers and sergeants-major of other city corps. A limited number of invitations were issued by each officer of the 8th to civilian friends. The stage was laid out as a landscape, with rifles piled here and there, and in the centre the massive silver trophy won by the regiment in the Provincial rifle matches some years ago. Over the proscenium was a crown formed of gas jets. On the pillars at either side was a magnificent star of American bayonets. These, we believe, were borrowed from the office of the Minister of Militia in this city. Over them were the Union Jack on one side and a green silk flag on the other. The tricolor was at the other end of the hall. The Dominion flag was displayed over the centre of the stage. An abundance of bunting was tastefully intertwined along the galleries, and stands of arms were placed around each pillar. Many other designs, which space prevents us from describing, encircled the hall. Below the jets was the handsome silver British challenge shield with the Royal Standard for a background. This coveted prize, won by the regiment at the Dominion rifle matches last year, was all through the night an object of considerable admiration. Suffice it to say that the *tout ensemble* was really glittering, and our volunteer friends must have felt fully rewarded for their decorative efforts, when viewing the splendid effect produced, and receiving the hearty congratulations of their civilian friends, and brothers-in-arms of sister corps.

The floor was in excellent condition for dancing, and all the other arrangements left nothing to be desired.

Guests were received by Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Montzambert and Mrs. Prower.

The music was furnished by the splendid band of the 8th Royal Rifles, and a programme of twenty dances was carried through.

There were fully 600 persons present, and the room, when filled with company, presented a scene of rare brilliancy. The beauty of the ladies, their elegant dresses, the bright uniforms of the cavalry and artillery mingled with the scarlet of the staff and other branches of the service and the more sober clothing of the riflemen combined to make the assemblage present an appearance of gaiety and animation seldom surpassed.

Refreshments were served during the whole night in the dining hall attached to the ball room. It is needless to say that the Russell Hotel Company left nothing to be desired, so far as the bill of fare and dining room arrangements were concerned.

Our congratulations are due to the officers of the 8th for the thorough success of last night's entertainment. The list, as given on the dance card, is as follows:—Lieut. Col. H. J. Miller, Surgeon P. Coote, Captain Ernest F. Wurtele, Adjutant; captains, G. E. A. Jones, J. Elton Prower, E. Montzambert, J. S. Dunbar, Chas. Miller, J. F. Burstall; lieutenants, A. E. Hall, T. Inglis Poston, E. W. Ashe, J. B. Peters, W. C. H. Wood, W. M. Dobell, C. J. Dunn.

THE GRENADIERS' BALL.

Toronto.—Everyone agrees in pronouncing the ball given in the Pavilion Music Hall on the 17th an immense success, and worthy of the jubilee year. Of 1,500 invited fully 1,200 were present, including guests from neighboring towns, representatives from every arm of the service, and even belles from Chicago and New York.

Among the official invitations were the following:—His Excellency the Governor-General, Lady Lansdowne and staff; Lord and Lady Alex. Russell and staff; Right Hon. Sir John and Lady Macdonald; members of the Dominion Cabinet and ladies; Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. Ed. and Mrs. Blake; Hon. O. Mowat; members of the Ontario Cabinet and ladies; the Mayor of Toronto; chairmen of committees of the City Council and ladies; The Archbishop of Toronto; The Bishop of Toronto and Mrs. Swetman; the President of Toronto University professors and ladies; the Presidents of the city denominational colleges; the Presidents and Cashiers of the banks and ladies; the lady and gentlemen members of the volunteer relief and reception committees of 1885; the Consuls and Vice-Consuls resident in Toronto and ladies; the Commandants and Officers of all the permanent corps and ladies; representatives from all city corps in Ontario and a number from Quebec; officers of Toronto Garrison and ladies.

The decorations literally transformed the pavilion into a ball-room so gorgeous in color and lights that it seemed a pity it would not always remain so. Particular attention was paid to having the decorations something different from the conventional, and success attended the effort. What first struck the eye on entering was the change effected in the west end over the dais. This wall represented a portion of a huge officers' marquee of white and crimson cloths, the colors alternating in broad stripes that reached from the floor to the very roof. Half way up was a festoon of dark blue cloth. In the centre of this wall was a huge circular trophy of arms fifteen feet in diameter, consisting of a crimson ground on which were arranged swords, cutlasses and bayonets, whose shining steel reflected the light cast by a large gas motto, "Welcome," thirty feet long, and with letters two feet high, formed of small colored globes. The effect of this was superb. Occupying a prominent place was a full sized Gatling gun of exquisite flowers, the gift of Messrs. S. Davis & Sons, of Montreal. The east end of the hall was almost as gorgeous as the west. But what chiefly lent an air of magnificence to the scene was the rich drapery, consisting of portieres of every design hung on poles as if they were permanent. Across the arches of the galleries were stretched gilt poles on each of which hung silk and wool curtains of crimson, olive and old gold artistically arranged. The six doors opening into the improvised supper room on the other, were draped with India portieres of olive and crimson held with gilt chains. In fact drapery was hung where it never was before in the pavilion. On entering the ball room the guests found themselves in a small roped space, the only escape from which was through a guard of honor of forty stalwart, red-coated, bushied and armed Grenadiers, extended in two files from the entrance to the centre of the floor. After

running this gauntlet, the guests were met by two officers, who presented them to Lieut.-Col. Grasett and Mrs. Dawson, wife of Major Dawson, who received on behalf of the officers.

At 11.45 the band struck up the music to the opening quadrille, in which the leading set was composed as follows: Lieut.-Col. Grasett and Mrs. Robinson; Sir Fred. Middleton and Mrs. Ryerson; Lieut.-Col. F. C. Denison and Mrs. Mason; Major Harrison and Mrs. Dalton McCarthy; The Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Dawson; Lieut.-Col. Otter and Mrs. Goldwin Smith; Major Dawson and Lady Middleton; Major Smith, 7th Batt., London, and Mrs. Harrison.

Then followed a programme of twenty-two dances. Up to 12.30 the dances, the round ones especially, were not altogether comfortable, so great was the crush. Between the pillars were white cords held by Grenadier drummers, which prevented intrusion on the dancing floor by those not dancing. The supper was in keeping with every thing else, being magnificently laid and well served.

Our Trading Column.

The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word. Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, Canadian Militia Gazette, Box 316, Ottawa.

This column is established for the purpose of enabling our friends to exchange, purchase, sell, or otherwise advertise articles they desire either to acquire or dispose of. It is not available for commercial purposes.



LYMAN'S FLUID COFFEE,

A HOME LUXURY FOR CAMPING OUT.

COFFEE of the FINEST FLAVOR can be made in a MOMENT, ANYWHERE, in ANY QUANTITY. As good with condensed milk as fresh, or as "Café Noir."

FULL DIRECTIONS WITH EACH BOTTLE.

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UNIFORMS of every description made to order and everything necessary to an

OFFICER'S OUTFIT SUPPLIED.

Send for List of Prices.

Terms strictly cash



Notice to Contractors.

CHANGE OF TIME.

THE time for seeing the Plans and Specifications for the

NEW EXAMINING WAREHOUSE AT OTTAWA

is hereby extended to Monday, the 21st February, and the time for receiving tenders to Tuesday, the 8th March.

By order, A. GOBEIL, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 12th February, 1887.

VICK'S

FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1887

Now ready, contains 2 colored plates, hundreds of illustrations, and nearly 200 pages—32 pertaining to gardening and flower culture, and over 150 containing an illustrated list of nearly all the flowers and vegetables grown, with directions how to grow them, where the best seeds, plants and bulbs can be procured, with prices of each. This book mailed free on receipt of 10 cents, and the 10 cents may be deducted from the first order sent us. Every one interested in a garden, or who desires good, fresh seeds, should have this work. We refer to the millions who have used our seeds. Buy only Vick's seeds at headquarters. JAMES VICK, Seedsmen, Rochester, N.Y.



Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on 11th March, 1887, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed contract for four years, six times a week each way, between North Gower and Osgoode Ry. Station from the 1st April next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of North Gower, Kar and Osgoode Station, and at this office.

T. P. FRENCH, Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office, Ottawa, 11th Feb., 1887.

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Existing Policies \$100,000,000. Invested Funds, \$31,470,435.64. Profits divided in ten occasions, \$17,500,000.

Class H Policies are FREE FROM ALL RESTRICTIONS, the contract being PAYABLE WITHOUT THE SMALLEST DOUBT.

W. M. RAMSAY, Manager, Montreal.

Agents in every city and town in the Dominion.



Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on 11th March, 1887, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed contract for four years, twelve times per week each way, between Aylmer and Ottawa from the 1st April next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen, and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Aylmer, Tetreauville, Hull and Ottawa, and at this office.

T. P. FRENCH, Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office, Ottawa, Feb. 16th, 1887.

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UNIFORMS FOR ALL SERVICES.

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 OF BEST QUALITY AND MANUFACTURE AT STRICTLY MODERATE PRICES.

Estimates, Drawings, Patterns, &c.,
 free on application.

References to all parts of the
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DOMINION LANDS REGULATIONS.

Under the Dominion Lands Regulations all surveyed even-numbered sections, excepting 8 and 26, in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or otherwise disposed of or reserved, are to be held exclusively for homesteads and pre-emptions.

Upon payment of an office fee of ten dollars, surveyed agricultural land, of the class open to homestead entry, may be homesteaded in any one of the three following methods:—

1. The homesteader shall begin actual residence on his homestead and cultivation of a reasonable portion thereof within six months from date of entry, unless entry shall have been made on or after the 1st day of September, in which case residence need not commence until the first day of June following, and continue to live upon and cultivate the land for at least six months out of every twelve months for three years from date of homestead entry.

2. The homesteader shall begin actual residence, as above, within a radius of two miles of his homestead, and continue to make his home within such radius for at least six months out of every twelve months for the three years next succeeding the date of homestead entry; and shall within the first year from date of entry, break and prepare for crop ten acres of his homestead quarter section, and shall within the second year crop the said ten acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional; making twenty-five acres; and within the third year after the date of his homestead entry he shall crop the said twenty-five acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional, so that within three years of the date of his homestead entry he shall have not less than twenty-five acres cropped, and shall have erected on the land a habitable house in which he shall have lived during the three months next preceding his application for homestead patent.

3. The homesteader shall begin the cultivation of his homestead within six months after the date of entry, or if the entry was obtained after the first day of September in any year, then before the first day of June following; shall within the first year break and prepare for crop not less than five acres of his homestead; shall within the second year crop the said five acres, and break and prepare for crop not less than ten acres in addition, making not less than fifteen acres in all; shall have erected a habitable house on his homestead before the expiration of the second year, and on or before the commencement of the third year shall have begun to reside in the said house, and shall have continued to reside therein and cultivate his homestead for not less than three years next prior to the date of his application for patent.

In the event of a homesteader desiring to secure his patent within a shorter period than the three or five years, as the case may be, he will be permitted to purchase his homestead, or homestead and pre-emption, as the case may be, on furnishing proof that he has resided on the homestead for at least twelve months subsequent to date of entry, and in case entry was made after the 25th day of May, 1883, has cultivated thirty acres thereof.

PRE-EMPTIONS.

Any homesteader may at the same time as he makes his homestead entry, obtain entry for an adjoining unoccupied quarter-section as a pre-emption, on payment of a fee of ten dollars.

The pre-emption right entitles the homesteader to purchase the land so pre-empted on becoming entitled to his homestead patent, but a failure to fulfil the homestead conditions forfeits the pre-emption right.

INFORMATION.

Full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, and copies of the Regulations, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Ontario; the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or to any of the Dominion Land Agents in Manitoba or the North-West Territories.

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