

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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### Topics of the Week.

A meeting of the executive of the Dominion Rifle Association was held this week, to appoint officers and make other arrangements in connection with the annual prize meeting in September. There were present Lieut.-Col. White, Majors Perley, Tilton, Bond and Blaiklock and Capt. Hood. Lieut.-Col. Mattice, B.M., was appointed chief executive officer, and range officers were chosen as follows: Capt. Manley, 10th R.G.; Capt. W. E. Hodgins, G.G.F.G.; Lieut. E. A. Macnachten, Cobourg Gar. Art.; Major Radiger, Victoria Rifles; Lieut.-Col. Jones, Dufferin Rifles; Lieut. Winter, G.G.F.G., and Capt. Aumont, R.I. The statistics were again confided to the care of Major Walsh, of the 43rd Battalion.

A design for the Lansdowne challenge cup, for D. R. A. team aggregate competition, has been accepted out of the three recently submitted to the association. The following is the makers' description: "An oval bowl, with two handles formed of maple foliage. A panel on each side—one for inscription, the other showing Victory crowning the winner's name with laurels. Other panels in low relief containing ribbons entwined about maples, bearing the names of the provinces forming the Dominion; with rifles and calumets (the pipe of peace), war hatchets, etc. On the pedestal two lions, symbols of courage and fortitude; also shield bearing the Lansdowne arms and the badge of the association." The trophy will be an exceedingly handsome one; it will be of silver, and will cost upwards of four hundred dollars.

Two business meetings in connection with the P. Q. R. A. were called for Wednesday—one of "competitors," the other of "members." Both were fixed to take place during shooting hours; in consequence not a single competitor made his appearance at the place assigned for the competitors' meeting; and at the other scarce half a dozen members were present besides the officers. The business transacted consisted principally of the re-election of the old list of officers. Lt.-Col. McEachern, C.M.G., who presided, expressed exceeding gratification at the success attending the prize meeting, though it was held so far away from the association's home; and he thought it to be a satisfactory state of affairs that the competitors had no complaints to make or grievances to ventilate, and therefore abstained from attending at meetings called. Votes of thanks to the Minister of Militia for the use of the range, and to Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson, Director of Stores, for many personal acts of kindness in connection with the preparations for the matches, were passed.

There has long been a suspicion in the minds of competitors that prizes in the so-called "military matches" of the Provincial and Dominion rifle associations, sometimes found their way to other than those who were the real winners according to the prescribed regulations. This impression will be strengthened by the developments in connection with the P. Q. R. A. volley firing competition this week. A careless mistake by which three prizes were awarded to teams not having earned them, was rectified at the last moment, having been discovered by the merest chance; but the injustice inflicted by the officer who took upon himself to alter the rules, not even informing the competitors of the alteration, is from its nature irremediable. It is to be hoped that for the future the executive of these associations will look more sharply after their officers, and make sure that they administer the regulations as they find them in place of enacting a new set to suit their own convenience.

The last provincial rifle association programme to hand is that for Manitoba, whose annual matches, on the Stony Mountain ranges, commence on Wednesday next. The programme is an exceedingly elaborate one, providing for all kinds of shooting from an any rifle match for ladies' nominees to skirmishing matches on conditions approaching actual service as nearly as possible. Team competitions, for battalions, companies and associations, are very numerous. A revolver match is included in the programme.

In enumerating last week the prizes won by members of our team at Wimbledon this year, we erred in saying that no Canadian secured a place on the prize list in the Prince of Wales' match. Lieut. Smith, of the St. John Rifles, was the thirteenth of the nineteen prize winners. He took £3 with a score of 94, making 29 out of his seven shots at 200 yards and 65 out of fifteen at 600. This week's English mail brings additional prize lists, being the concluding scores of the Wimbledon meeting, and in these we find Canadian names again figuring. In the Wantage match Sergt. Wilson, 33rd, took the 32nd and last prize, £1, with a score of 21; and in the Association Cup match Sergt. Wilson's name again figures, he being 53rd, taking a £2 prize with a score of 65 out of 70 possible—7 shots at 200 and 7 at 500 yards. Sergt. Duncan of the Queen's Own Rifles put in 33 points at 200 yards in the Robin Hood extra series competition, and secured 34th place on the prize list, taking £2.

Noticing the telegraphic match between Halifax and Toronto teams, which took place on Saturday the 4th inst., as an outcome of the MILITIA GAZETTE's suggestion that Halifax was about as likely as any place to make it interesting for the Queen City team, the *Halifax Mail* says that these matches promise to become very popular there. In other cities where the local marksmen have participated in them, we fancy like favourable feeling exists—a presage of increased popular interest in rifle shooting which cannot fail to be productive of highly desirable results. We hope before the season closes to see a grand telegraphic rifle tournament in which each city or town having a team worthy the name will be represented.