

had, according to the ancient anecdote, "no right to *think*, as other people were paid for thinking for him"; but he was not allowed to consult his own tastes in any matter of life in which it was possible for red tape to interfere. He had to take even his pleasures, like his duties, "according to regulations." Under such a system, when susceptibilities were not deadened they became irritated; a hasty word—a hasty act—became a crime, and many a career was blasted.

So far as the armies of India are concerned, Sir Frederick Roberts is attempting to inaugurate a better way of dealing with the young soldier. He would have a little more consideration shown to him in his earlier days of service by the officers and non-commissioned officers over him. Recognizing that the strictest discipline is essential to the very existence of an army, and that unless crime is punished as it deserves, the worst consequences must be expected, Sir Frederick Roberts "would only urge that during the first two or three years of a soldier's service every allowance should be made for youth and inexperience, and that throughout that time, crime should, whenever practicable, be dealt with summarily, and not visited with the heavier punishment of a court-martial sentence." The kindly wisdom of this suggestion will be acknowledged by all who may remember during their service in India the many cases of young soldiers sentenced to penal servitude for insubordination to superior officers, such superior officers being frequently lance corporals or acting sergeants of as hasty temper and as ignorant of true discipline as the culprits they complained of and had brought to trial.

In the treatment of the older soldiers, Sir Frederick Roberts takes another and a bolder step in advance of his predecessors. He would have more indulgences given to them—more freedom of action allowed to them. A later hour for tattoo, for keeping open the recreation rooms, excused attendance from roll-calls and "the fullest indulgence in the grant of passes consistent with the requirements of health, duty and discipline," are some of the suggestions which he hints that commanders would do well to carry out in favor of their well-behaved men. There are still red-tapeists in the army who will shake their heads and declare that all this is a dangerous innovation and a tampering with discipline. But the Indian commander-in-chief has the courage of his opinions. He declares that the corps in which indulgences are most freely given show the largest number of well behaved men. Such indulgences, he holds, are seldom abused, and "not only are they appreciated by the recipients, but they act as an incentive to the less well-conducted to redeem their characters." The experiment has been made in Madras, and has succeeded, and Sir Frederick Roberts now wishes that a trial be made of granting these indulgences in every corps under his command, as he has every confidence that their universal adoption will be attended to with the happiest results. It may be allowed that the experiment is a bold one, but every friend of the soldier must wish it success.—*Broad Arrow*.

D. R. A. Competitors' Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of competitors was held in the Ottawa drill hall on the evening of Tuesday, the second day of the recent Dominion rifle association prize meeting. Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick, president, occupied the chair, and Lieut.-Col. Bacon, secretary of the association, was also secretary of the meeting. There was a very large attendance of competitors and others interested, prominent amongst those present being noticed Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Lieut.-Cols. Macpherson, Gibson, White, Mackintosh, Macdonald, MacNachtan, Wolfenden and Jones; Majors Macpherson, Prior, Gray, Walsh, Todd, Thompson, Buchan and Jackson; Asst.-Surgeon McLaughlin; Captains Perley, Barnhill, Weston, Garrison, Adam, Sims, Jones, Thomas, Macdonald (Q.O.R.), Macdonald (R.I.), Newton, Brown, Ibbotson, Hartt, Manley, Corbin and Sparham. All ranks were well represented.

The chairman, after expressing the pleasure it afforded him to see such a large gathering on this occasion, briefly explained the objects of this—the "grievance" meeting as it had been styled. He invited those who had grievances to fully air them, and asked for any suggestions which anyone present might desire to make concerning the annual prize meetings. The president having concluded,

Capt. Weston, 66th, started a lively discussion by making the following motion, on behalf of which he made an able address: "Resolved, that this meeting do recommend to the council of the association that at future prize meetings all the matches be shot with the Martini-Henry rifle." In his remarks Capt. Weston dwelt strongly upon the unreliability of the Snider at the longer ranges.

Staff-Sergt. Sutherland, G. G. F. G., suggested, in view of the difficulty which must be met with in an attempt to entirely abolish the Snider from the meeting, that it be used up to 500 yards only, and that the Martini be substituted at longer ranges.

Assistant-Surgeon McLaughlin, 45th, said it would be well to hasten slowly in this matter. The old shots were one by one passing away, and their places were being filled with recruits from a force armed

wholly with the Snider, and accustomed to its use alone, and this fact should be considered.

Lieut.-Col. Gibson, 13th, favored Staff-Sergt. Sutherland's suggestion, if it were impossible to have the Martini served out to the force. He was convinced that with the Snider the best shots did not come to the front, the element of chance entering in so largely. He thought it might be possible for the council to do something in the way of the resolution.

Major Blaiklock, Royal Scots, was of opinion that it would be some time yet before the Snider rifle was done away with in Canada. Recent fighting in this country had been at less distances than 500 yards, and any that the force might be called upon to do in the future would likely be within this distance also. This, being the case he did not think the government had any intention at present to arm the force with anything but the Snider. He suggested that the annual matches should be divided into two aggregates, one for 200, 400 and 500 yards with the Snider, and one at 200, 500 and 600 with the Martini, so that men would not be called upon to shoot in the Governor-General's match with a weapon they were not accustomed to at less distances than 600 yards.

Lieut. Russell, 45th, believed the competitors present had this year done very little practice with the Snider, all who could get them having been using Martinis. Then because they made poor scores with a weapon with which they had had no practice they condemned the poor old rifle and the ammunition. He did not believe in combining Snider and Martini shooting. He suggested to use the Snider for two days of the meeting, in matches making up an all comers' aggregate, and then with the Martini to shoot for places on the Wimbledon team.

The Chairman said that so long as the association remained as at present associated with the volunteer force, and in receipt of grants from the government and from the militia department, for so long would it be impossible to do away with the arm of the force. It must be remembered, too, that the Martini was on its trial as well as the Snider, and that a great many rifle shots in England were of opinion that the Martini was not the coming weapon. Perhaps as Staff-Sergt. Sutherland proposed they might get the Martini introduced at distances over 500 yards, and he suggested that the resolution be so amended, as it would then be in a more practical form.

Capt. Manley, Royal Grenadiers, favored such an amendment.

Major Todd, G.G.F.G., said the duty devolved upon the association of encouraging and promoting at much as possible good shooting with the Snider rifle, the arm of the force. He would be sorry to see anything done which would tend to lessen the practice with that weapon. He was in favor, however, of the suggestion that there be two aggregates, one for Snider and one for Martini, from the latter the Wimbledon team to be chosen, but he would advocate that the Governor-General's prizes be awarded in the Snider matches, to encourage shooting with it, as the arm of most use in the country.

Capt. Hartt, St. John Rifles, said that to make Martini shooting decide the places on the Wimbledon team was to put the Snider altogether in the background. The chief object of the D.R.A. was to put a cap upon rifle shooting in Canada and to fit men for the other side, and therefore his views accorded with those of Capt. Weston. But if they could not shoot Martini at all ranges, then he would be glad to accept it at 600 yards.

Assistant-Surgeon McLaughlin dissented from the statement that Wimbledon was the chief object of the D.R.A. meeting. He thought it was to improve shooting in Canada, and for this a few went over to England each year and came back to improve the force. (Hear, hear.)

Lieut.-Col. White, 43rd, took it that the chief object of the association was to encourage shooting in the Dominion, and to ask that the Snider be abolished was he considered an absurdity. The association could not afford to ignore the arm of the country.

Lieut.-Col. Gibson, 13th, then moved in amendment, seconded by Lieut. Col. Jones, 38th, and it was resolved, "That the council be requested to give greater prominence to the Martini-Henry rifle in the annual matches, and that regular matches shot with that rifle be taken into the aggregate."

Capt. Sims, Victoria Rifles, suggested that in future the adjutant of the Wimbledon team should be chosen from officers who have been to England on the team, or who at least have earned places in the sixty here. He held that a man who knew nothing about shooting was of very little assistance to the team, and did not think that the adjutant's work should, as it had sometimes in the past, devolve necessarily upon some member of the team who having been over once before knew more about the duties.

Major Todd, G.G.F.G., moved a recommendation that in future ricochet shots be awarded the value of the hits they make. After discussion the motion was lost.

Capt. Hartt, St. John Rifles, moved, seconded by Major Blaiklock, Royal Scots, that the council be requested to have the London