

Field Battery Efficiency Competition.

For the third year in succession No. 1 Battery of the First Brigade Field Artillery, Guelph, has won the proud title of the most efficient field battery in the Dominion, and receives the reward offered by the Dominion Artillery Association, the handsome silver cup annually presented by the Governor-General. Also for the third year in succession the Hamilton Field Battery was a close second, winning for one year the possession of the Lansdowne cup. A glance at the figures given below will show that both these batteries did excellently in every branch

of the competition, being very close all through, but Hamilton losing position in the firing practice. It is curious how close the contests have been between these two batteries for the past few years. In 1887 Hamilton was first, and when in 1888 Guelph wrested the honour away, Hamilton being a close second protested that the result would have been different had the signalling conditions been the same for the firing practice of both. Last year Hamilton lost because of the absence of some of the officers from inspection. This year the officers were on hand and took high marks for their part of the competition. The complete results, this week officially compiled, are as follows:—

Battery.	Officer Commanding.	Clothing and Accoutrements.	Guns, Carriages and Equipment.	Horses.	Harness and Harnessing.	Marching Past.	Gun Drill.	Sword Drill.	Field Manoeuvres.	Discipline and Camping.	Officers.	N. C. Officers.	Per cent. of Score.	Reduction for Absentees.	Total.	Inspecting Officer.
	Full marks	12	16	12	16	15	28	8	16	12	40	64	100	....	339	
No. 1 1st Brigade.....	Major Nicoll.....	10	14	10	15	14	24	7	14	10	35	56	56.25	....	265.25	Lt.-Col. Irwin.
Hamilton	Major Van Wagner.....	11	16	11	16	14	26	6	13	12	38	63	41.43	....	264.43	Lt.-Col. Irwin.
Montreal	Lt.-Col. Stevenson.....	12	16	11	14	13	27	8	12	7	35	59	44.90	5	253.90	Lt.-Col. Irwin.
No. 2 1st Brigade.....	Major Davidson.....	8	14	9	15	12	22	7	12	11	38	61	41.90	11	239.90	Lt.-Col. Irwin.
Durham.....	Major McLean.....	10	10	10	14	13	24	6	12	10	29	56	40.97	....	234.97	Lt.-Col. Cotton.
Quebec.....	Major Lindsay.....	11	15	11	13	14	26	4	15	10	27	55	30.09	....	231.09	Lt.-Col. Montizambert.
Kingston.....	Major Drennan.....	12	16	9	15	13	22	4	12	11	27	49	40.50	....	217.50	Lt.-Col. Cotton.
Welland Canal.....	Major King.....	8	14	8	14	13	20	6	11	9	28	48	49.07	13	215.07	Lt.-Col. Irwin.
Newcastle.....	Lt.-Col. Call.....	8	12	11	12	13	23	..	12	7	35	35	37.73	....	205.73	Lt.-Col. Irwin.
Ottawa.....	Major Stewart.....	10	12	9	12	13	20	4	12	10	26	34	36.80	....	198.80	Lt.-Col. Cotton.
Sydney.....	Major McLeod.....	11	14	7	8	12	20	8	12	10	32	32	27.31	....	193.31	Lt.-Col. Montizambert.
Winnipeg.....	Major Coutlee.....	8	8	10	10	10	18	3	10	10	25	51	25.93	....	188.93	Lt.-Col. Cotton.
Gananoque.....	Lt.-Col. McKenzie.....	10	14	9	12	13	20	4	14	10	30	0	35.88	....	160.88	Lt.-Col. Cotton.
Shefford.....	Lt.-Col. Amyrauld.....	6	10	8	10	7	20	..	10	7	32	29	45.13	24	160.13	Lt.-Col. Montizambert.
Toronto.....	Major Mead.....	8	14	9	12	13	22	7	11	8	29	36	.....	4	.....	Lt.-Col. Irwin.
Woodstock.....	Major Dibblee.....	10	12	12	13	11	20	5	10	7	17	53	.....	.....	.....	Lt.-Col. Irwin.
London.....	Lt.-Col. Peters.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42.13	.....	.....	District Staff.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

ORDERLY-ROOM CLERKS AT THE SCHOOLS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Is it not about time that something should be done for the orderly-room clerks of the schools of instruction? When a soldier receives the appointment of orderly-room clerk he is given extra pay at the rate of ten cents per diem, without any prospect of an increase. This is very poor encouragement indeed. It costs an O. R. C. a considerable amount to keep his uniform fresh and clean, as the bright scarlet jacket very soon becomes soiled and ink-stained. The position of O. R. C. is one of the greatest responsibility and trust, and it would not cost the Government a very large sum to give every O. R. C. the rank and pay of sergeant. In the Imperial service it is well understood that to obtain a good, trustworthy O. R. C. there must be some inducement offered, and the rank of sergeant with good pay is given. With the rank there is a dignity which pleases and makes a man proud of his appointment, and this prevents in a great measure the liability to gossip of things outside the office that should be held with the strictest privacy. And when the short period of service is considered, it is evident that to retain a good clerk he must be given some encouragement, while an extra ten cents is not quite tempting enough. It is evident that this matter requires looking into, and something should be done for this deserving class of men.

Thank you very much, Mr. Editor, for affording me so much of your valuable space.

JUSTICE.

P. S.—In a battalion the O. R. C. ranks as a staff-sergeant, whilst here in a school of instruction, which is the nucleus of a battalion, he is given no rank at all. The office work to be done in a school of instruction is immense, and I know from my own experience that the O. R. C. of the school of instruction has a great deal more hard work to do than a great many battalion O. R. Sergeants.—JUSTICE.

Rifle Competitions.

At the annual meeting of the Victoria County Rifle Association, held at Lindsay on the 9th inst., Major S. Hughes, of the 45th, distinguished himself by taking first prize in each of the two matches on the regular list. It is a characteristic of the Major to go straight to the mark, whether with the editorial pen (his business weapon) or the rifle. One of his two prizes was a cup presented by Dr. McKay, M.P.P.

The 57th Battalion had a formal presentation, after drill on Tuesday of last week, of the prizes won at the battalion matches the week previously. The ten best marksmen received cross-gun badges in addition to the prizes in kind presented by the friends of the corps. These were the ten: Pte. D. Cameron, Pte. J. Pentland, Pte. G. Fitzgerald, Sergt. Irwin, Pte. Curtis, Sergt. Blade, Pte. F. Hall, Pte. W. Wetheral, Pte. Musclow, Pte. W. A. Bell. The cup and \$10 offered as first prize in the company match went to E Company (Capt. Miller).

The twenty-third annual matches of the Cobourg Rifle Association were held on the 9th inst. The attendance was large and the shooting good. Among the visitors at the ranges were Lt.-Col. Graveley, of the 40th Battalion, and Col. Cornell, of the United States army. The prize list was one of the best ever offered by the association. The ranges were 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards, five shots at each. In the Militia match Sergt. George Archer, G.A., made the highest score and won the gold medal, the gift of the patroness, Mrs. J. Vance Graveley. In the Association match Corp. R. Lunn, G.A., made the highest score and won the challenge cup, the gift of Mr. William Rosamond. The grand aggregate for highest scores in the Militia and Association matches resulted as follows:—First, Corp. R. Lunn, G.A., Dominion silver medal; second, Sergt. George Archer, G.A., Dominion bronze medal; third, Pte. John E. Boswell, Ontario silver medal; fourth, Capt. A. J. Snelgrove, 40th Battalion, the Hopper cup.

The Cumberland (N.S.) Rifle Association's annual matches were held on the Amherst range on the 8th and 9th. Lt.-Col. M. B. Harrison was range officer. The shooting was very good, considering there was a fitful wind most of the time. Charles E. Lockhart, Leicester, won for this year the gold medal presented by Sir Charles Tupper, with a score of 87 points out of a possible 105. Ranges 200, 400, 500, seven shots. He was closely followed by Sergt. William Baird, Southampton,