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The Volunteer Review

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, SEPT. 19, 1876.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp, according to the weight of the communication, placed thereon will pay the postage. No communication, however, will be inserted unless the writer's name is given, not necessarily for publication, but that we may know from whom it is sent.

WE have for the past nine years endeavored to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support, but, we regret to say, have not met with that tangit to encouragement which we confidently expected when we undertook the publication of a paper wholly devoted to their interests. We now appeal to their civility and ask each of our subscribers to procure another, or to a person sending us the names of four or five new subscribers and the money—will be entitled to receive one copy for the year free. A little exertion on the part of our friends would materially assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Force—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the *Volunteer Review* in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it? Premiums will be given to those getting up the largest lists. The *Review* being the only military paper published in Canada, it ought to be liberally supported by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of each Battalion.

In order that our reader may fully understand the nature of the dispute between the Council of the Nova Scotia Rifle Association and the Executive Committee of the Dominion Rifle Association, we copy below the Memorandum of which the Nova Scotia one published in our last is the reply and which should have preceded it, so that our readers will have both sides of the question, and will thus the better be enabled to draw their own conclusion as to which are right. However, without taking part with either side in the discussion, we may be allowed parenthetically to observe, that Wimbledon is to Great Britain what Ottawa is to the Dominion of Canada, and yet neither Scotland nor Ireland have protested against the National Rifle Tournament being annually held there on account of its centrality.

MEMORANDUM.

Upon the resolution of the Council of the Provincial Rifle Association of Nova Scotia, passed 31st July, and the accompanying Circular communicated to the President of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, under date 8th August, 1876.

This Resolution refers to, and is probably intended to embody a declaration of dissatisfaction communicated to the Secretary of the Dominion Association, under date 18th August, 1875.

On the present occasion, the Nova Scotia Association advises its members not to take any part in the approaching competition at Ottawa, and appoints a committee apparently for the purpose of endeavouring to frustrate the main object of that meeting.

The resolution of 1875 led to correspondence between the Executive Committee of the Dominion Association and the Provincial Associations of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and it was believed that the objections to the arrangements for the Dominion Matches had been removed, and that the difficulties which stood in the way of the attendance of marksmen from the Maritime Provinces had been narrowed down to that of expenses incurred by competitors coming to Ottawa. It was understood that in future the Provincial Association would make such provision for sending their representatives as would overcome that difficulty.

This conclusion was justified by subsequent events, for although representatives from both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were present at the last Annual Meeting, and although members of the Council representing those Provinces were present at the subsequent meetings of the newly elected Council, no proposals were submitted for changing either the mode of selecting the Wimbledon Team or any other of the arrangements for the Annual Competition.

It is hardly possible that the Committee appointed by the Nova Scotia Association under the resolution of the 21st July could have been expected to succeed in bringing about any change in the programme for the meeting appointed for the 5th of September. The Committee had not prepared its circular until the 7th of August. It was not likely to reach the Associations for which it was intended before the 12th. Some days would then be necessary for bringing together fairly representative meetings, and an expression of the opinions of the Associations to which the Circular was addressed can hardly reach the Executive of the Dominion Association much before the end of the present month. A meeting of the Executive would require further time, and it is therefore quite obvious that no time would remain to change the programme and give the necessary publicity to such change—if any were agreed upon—before the 5th of September.

But even if the Executive were willing to waive their own convictions as to the best mode of selecting the Wimbledon Team, and the disposition of the prize lists, what assurance could they have that they could determine anything more acceptable to Nova Scotia? The Council of the Nova Scotia Association has offered no suggestion on the present occasion, and in 1875 their resolution expressly declared that they were "not desirous of advocating any particular method of selecting the Team." It is evident therefore that any new scheme might be as objectionable to them as the present one seems to be. Even if the Dominion Executive could be quite sure of finding some plan that would satisfy the Nova Scotia Association, is it certain that the Ontario and Quebec Associations would be equally satisfied? and are the views

of those Provinces to be disregarded? All these considerations are so evident that they must have presented themselves to the authors of the Circular. In the second paragraph of the Circular reference is made to discussions, which are said to have taken place during the matches at Ottawa last year, and the Committee allege that alterations were made in the regulations on that occasion to meet the views of the representatives from the Maritime Provinces. As no meetings, either of the Association or of its Council, were held during the last Annual Competition, the discussions referred to must have been of an informal or merely conversational character and were not communicated to the Dominion Association. Lt. Col. Ritchie, one of the signers of the Circular, when receiving the London Merchants' Cup, as the representative of Nova Scotia, is reported as having expressed unreserved satisfaction on the part of himself and the other representatives from his Province, with the manner in which the competitions had been conducted, and with all the arrangements in connection therewith.

The alleged changes in the programme for 1875 were of so trivial a character, that it is difficult to understand why the Committee has referred to them, especially as they had no reference to the selection of the Wimbledon Team, nor did they affect any of the objections raised by the Maritime Provinces. They consisted in the omission on account of unfavorable weather, of firing at some of the ranges, to bring the competition to a close within the time originally intended. Apparently the reference is intended to assume the nature of a complaint that the changes have not been introduced in the arrangements for 1876. If that is the intention, it has no force, because with a view to shortening the time requisite for the completion of the competitions shooting at several ranges has been omitted and the number of matches has been reduced from 10 in 1875 to 8 in 1876.

There is one other point in this second paragraph of the Circular to which it is necessary to refer. Reference is made to promises alleged to have been made by the President of the Dominion Association at the last general meeting in a manner which implies that those promises have not been fulfilled. The President promised that all suggestions made to the Council should have the fullest consideration and that so far as might be consistent with the general interests of the Association they would be acted upon. These promises have been redeemed both in the spirit and letter. Not a single suggestion has been offered by any Association, either Provincial or local, but suggestions have been kindly submitted by individuals, and some of them have been adopted.

The Nova Scotia Committee admits that apart from the Wimbledon competition they have no material objections to offer to the prize list and regulations of 1876. They confine themselves to the easy though not very convincing assertion that objections "will be obvious to any one accustomed to manage rifle matches." It remains only therefore to consider their objections to the regulations for conducting the competition by which the Wimbledon Team is to be selected.

Until some other method of selection has been suggested, and approved by all who are interested, the assertion that there are insuperable objections to the selection by a match at Ottawa, may be sufficiently answered by the contra assertion that only is such a mode of selection—at Ottawa or some other central place—good in theory but that it is equally good in practice. That it is the only mode by which a practical or useful comparison of the shooting qualities of the marks-