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The D. R. A. Matches.

The Dominion Rifle Association meeting for 1892 is now a thing of the past and the events which made up its history can now be fairly discussed. That it was, on the whole, a success, no one will deny, although the falling off in the number of entries was disappointing. Such a check is only a temporary one, and the event is each year assuming more importance in Canadian military circles. Were it for no other reason, the meeting of 1892 has been most valuable to the entire force for the glaring exhibition of the inferiority of the Snider as a modern military weapon, and for the unanimity and vehemence with which the whole body of shooting men present denounced the rifle, and demanded the substitution of the Martini at the next and subsequent meetings of the D. R. A., until that rifle, in turn, can be replaced by the Lee-Metford. The Association cannot possibly ignore such a call, and it seems safe to prophesy that at the 1893 meeting, competitors will not be obliged to include two different rifles in their shooting luggage. Had the Government but few Martini's on hand, considerable difficulty might be expected from that quarter; but with a stock of at least ten thousand ready for immediate use, it cannot be supposed that the powers that rule at Ottawa, will continue to withhold the improved rifle from general use. While the number now in store will not arm the entire force, or even the yearly quota permitted to drill, it will go a long way in that direction, and a fair and equitable method of division can easily be devised; and all hope and expect that one of the first measures of the new Minister will be to urge, and urge with determination, the inclusion in next estimates of a sum sufficient to equip the whole force with Martinis. Such a measure is to-day the most pressing demand of the Canadian militia. Far better would it be that the entire sum to be allotted next year to camps of instruction be diverted to the purchase of a fairly efficient weapon, if such pettifogging economy were thought necessary; but we cannot think that any Cabinet would be so flagrantly unpatriotic as to propose such an alternative.

The Military Rifle League.

The League has now been fairly tested, and has proved itself a most valuable aid to the military strength of the country. Apart entirely from the enthusiasm and interest shown in the organization at the recent annual meeting, by the picked shooting men of all Canada, the fact that over a thousand men devoted five Saturday afternoons to a simultaneous rifle match speaks volumes for the interest awakened in the subject and the immense benefit that must necessarily result in the shooting efficiency of our various corps. The

competitions have brought out many men who otherwise would probably have never devoted any attention to rifle-shooting; the proof of this will, no doubt, be evident next year or so soon as the double rifle nuisance which is at present the great impediment to shooting here is done away with, by the general issue of Martinis.

It is to be regretted that no programme or even outline of next season's work of the League was brought up at the meeting. It is good to hear that this year's work has been a brilliant success but it would also have been well to have elicited from the new Executive an expression of their determination to make the League matches of 1893 a still greater success than those of former years, and to have heard suggestions on the subject from the competitors present. We trust that Lieut.-Col. Gibson and the committee will, before very long, send out a sketch-plan of their proposals for 1893. One thing is of vital importance—that is to abolish the Snider *in toto* at all future matches.

Dalhousie Gate, Quebec.

We have been informed that the engraving of Dalhousie Gate which appeared on first page of our issue of 1st inst. was from a photograph taken by Capt. Imlah R. C. A., Quebec. While the subject is under mention, it may possibly be of interest to quote the description of Dalhousie Gate as given by Alfred Hawkins in his "Picture of Quebec," published in 1834, a few years after the fortifications were completed:

"The approach to the Citadel, which is nearly two hundred feet higher than the ground on which the Upper Town is situated, is by a winding road made through the acclivity of the *Glacis*, from St. Lewis-Gate, and commanded everywhere by the guns of the different bastions. This leads into the outward ditch of the ravelin, and thence into the principal ditch of the work, built upon both sides with walls of solid masonry, and extending along the whole circumference of the Citadel on the land and City sides. The main entrance is through a massive gate of admirable construction, called "Dalhousie-Gate," a view of which is given on the other page. Within the arch of the gate are the Main-Guard rooms, for a detachment and an officer, who are relieved every day; and in front of it is a spacious area, used as a parade ground, or rather an enlargement of the ditch formed by the retiring angles and face of the Bastion. This is a splendid work, presenting a most august appearance, and combining strength and symmetry with all the modern improvements in the art of fortification. It is named Dalhousie-Gate and Bastion, in honour of a distinguished nobleman and gallant officer, Lieutenant General the Earl of Dalhousie, G.C.B.; who succeeded the Duke of Richmond, as Governor-in-Chief of these Provinces, in 1820. In the face of this Bastion are loop holes for the fire of musquetry from within; on the top are embrasures for the cannon. The loop-holes serve also for the admission of air and light into the casemated barracks within for the troops composing the garrison. They are commodious and well adapted both for comfort and safety, being ventilated, and proof against fire and missiles of every description. These barracks are at present occupied by the Thirty-Second Regiment of the line, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable John Maitland, third son of the Earl of Lauderdale. On the top of Dalhousie Bastion is an extensive covered way, or broad gravel walk, with embrasures for mounting cannon, commanding every part of the ditch and glacis, and every avenue of approach to the Citadel. From this elevated spot is obtained a delightful view of the surrounding scenery and the harbor, the whole forming a panorama that has been pronounced by competent judges not inferior in beauty to the celebrated Bay of Naples."