

eral, and promised by Lord Stanley, known as the "Stanley medals," to the three most successful cadets graduating from the Royal Military College, Kingston, have failed to materialize. The winners received slips of paper to the effect that they were the winners, and entitled to the medals. We are not sure who is at fault in the matter for allowing the same thing to go on year after year. It would be interesting to know if the commandant of the college ever communicated with the Earl of Derby on the subject, either before or since his departure from Canada. We think it unfortunate that young men just starting out in life should have cause to bring the name of one occupying the highest position in Canada into contempt, and we would like to see the government replace these medals, fairly won, by other medals or articles of similar value.

The French papers have been getting into a white heat over what they call the bigotry and fanaticism of permanent corps officers in Stanley Barracks, Toronto. They say that Capt. Lessard at mess was ordered to converse in English and discontinue French; that Capt. Lessard appealed to Col. Otter, who upheld his officer, and that Capt. Lessard then carried the case to General Herbert, who informed all concerned that French was a *legal* language in this country, and that Capt. Lessard had a perfectly *legal* right to use it. The account stops here. They do not say that it was a breach, not only of mess etiquette, but of good manners for any persons at dinner to converse in a language that all were not familiar with, when all could and had been conversing in English. And that it was like whispering, something that no gentleman would be guilty of. Please let these French papers tell *all* that Gen. Herbert said and not a biased part.

The programme for the Toronto military tournament, on the lines of the Royal military tournament, London, England, has been out some time. We notice in all the competitions that officers compete among themselves, and the N. C. O.'s and men likewise among themselves. Lord Wolseley in all his works makes a strong point of urging officers to compete with and take part in all games with the men. Put them on an equal footing, letting the best man win. They are not separated in this way in rifle shooting, neither is there any distinction between a V. C. decoration

or medal for an officer or a N. C. O. or man. The tournament, however, promises to be a great success. It is certainly the largest affair of the kind ever given in Canada. Detachments of gunners are coming from as far east as Quebec and as far west as Winnipeg.

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

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Guelph.

The annual meeting of the Guelph Rifle Association was held on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock in Major Davidson's office. There were present Messrs. Geo. Sleeman, president in the chair, Gould, Col. White, C. E. Sleeman, John Ogg, John Goldie, C. Crowe, J. Davidson, J. Ryan, C. Armstrong, D. Schultz and J. Crowe, secretary.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Pres., Geo. Sleeman; vice-pres., B. R. McConkey; sec.-treas., John Crowe; committee, Col. Macdonald, Col. White, Maj. Davidson, Capt. Schultz, Lieut. Wideman and Messrs. J. Goldie, Ogg and C. Armstrong.

It was decided that the first practice begin the last Tuesday of April, and be held weekly, concluding with the 21st of August, Martini and Snider rifles to be used, four points to be added to Snider scores at three ranges, the O. R. A. medal to be given to the three highest scores made on regular practice days. It was also resolved that the committee arrange for a spoon competition, the association to be divided into two classes—1st and 2nd. The committee were also instructed to consider the advisability of a two days' match this year.

Mr. Crowe read the 27th annual report of the committee, which is as follows:

Your committee present this annual report of the G. R. A. with the feeling that the work which it has so long endeavored to do is yearly becoming of more importance. When the association was organized in 1887, the Snider muzzle was used—a rifle entirely unserviceable at a distance, say, 400 yards, so that soldiers in action usually worked under a standing order, viz., reserve your fire until you can distinguish the eyes of your enemy. They then blazed away around, and in the endeavor to reload were either clubbed to death themselves, bayoneted or else clubbed or bayoneted the enemy, so that a soldier's shooting ability was of little importance. In fact many a man in

the ranks was afraid to fire a round of ball cartridge. The conditions are now changed. A rifle is now used deadly in its effect up to 2000 yards, farther than a soldier can see either the color of an enemy's eyes, or in fact see the enemy at all, so that advancing armies are exposed to deadly fire while covering over a mile on the march; the rifles being so effective no other small arm weapon is of much importance, or of any importance at all, in fact. As it is the special work of the association to educate riflemen in the use of the rifle with which our volunteers are armed, your committee feel more than ever obliged to prosecute the work so well done in the past. The weekly practices have been well attended, and the many team and individual prizes won by our members at various matches show as a result. The O. R. A. medal, given for the three best scores made at regular practices, has been won by Mr. John Ogg with scores of 91, 93, 97—281. Your committee are of the opinion that it would increase the attendance if spoon competitions were held in connection with the practices. The annual match was well attended in a satisfactory and a marked degree, so much so that the G. R. A. matches are becoming popular with visiting riflemen, and being classed with provincial and other important events. Your committee recommend that a more extensive match be held this year. We are glad to welcome so active a member and so enthusiastic a rifleman as Col. White, and express the hope as a result that a more active part will be taken by the members of the 30th Battalion. We also recommend that this association affiliate with the D. R. A., the O. R. A. and the C. M. Rifle League.—*Guelph Herald, April 9th.*

OUR SERVICE CONTEMPORARIES.

The Admiralty will pay in subsidies this year to the Cunard, P. and O., White Star Line, and Canadian Pacific Steamship Companies the sum of £33,847, for which sum the companies agree to hold at the disposition of the Admiralty the steamships *Campania, Lucania, Teutonic, Majestic, Etruria, Himalaya, Australia, Empress of India, Empress of China, Empress of Japan, Victoria* and *Arcadia*. In addition to these the companies engage to hold the following vessels at the disposition of the Admiralty without further subsidy:—Cunard Company—*Umbria, Aurania* and *Servia*, P. and O. Company—*Britannia, Oceania, Peninsula, Oriental, Valetta, Massilia, Rome, Carthage, Balarat*, and *Parramatta*. White Star Line—*Britannic, Germanic*, and *Adriatic*. Last year nine vessels only were held at the disposition of the Admiralty, and for five of these £21,972 was paid in subsidies.

The important question of the re-organisation of the Royal Artillery has produced a great diversity of opinion among military men. While some of the best