

WE are happy to think that the craze for giving medals for trivial prizes is dying out, and the sooner it is completely ended the better. It had become no unusual thing at Canadian sporting and shooting meetings to have such a plethora of medals donated to the prize list that they were relegated to very subordinate places; indeed, on one occasion, we saw one offered as a second prize in a consolation race, and in some localities they became so common that we have heard of winners having their gains of this kind melted up for the bullion that was in them. Some rule should be adopted, restricting the issue of medals to certain authorized bodies, and by these they should be given under such conditions as would make them honorable badges. For instance our Governors-General have always generously given their medals to the several Provincial rifle associations as aggregate prizes for the long range shooting, and consequently they are valued, as are the National R. A. medals, which entitle their winners to compete for the Prince of Wales' prize at Wimbledon, while on the other hand the Provincial rifle association medals and badges, being issued in greater numbers, and without adequate safeguard as to their disposition, are rapidly depreciating in the eyes of riflemen, while as for private medals—psha!

THE general orders of the 17th contain regulations for the issue of fuel and light to the permanent corps, and the results of the June examinations at the Royal Military College, in addition to the usual chapter of changes. These do not include many field officers. Surgeon Baldwin of the Body Guard has resigned for the purpose of taking command of a troop in the second cavalry, Dr. Tye is appointed surgeon of the 24th and Major Anderson gets his commission antedated nearly two years. The list only includes five promotions, and there are fifteen new appointments to off set the same number of resignations and losses from other causes.

THE Queen's Own have organized a military tournament, to be held in one of the Toronto rinks on All Saints' day, and have generously opened it to the militia force of the whole Dominion. The programme includes, amongst other events, quarter, half and one mile races; a drill order race, and a tug of war. We sincerely hope this enterprise will meet with the success it deserves, and that it may pave the way for more extensive tournaments in the future, resembling the royal military tournaments in England, which have assumed national importance. We refer our athletic readers to the advertisement of the tournament in another column.

Contents of our Contemporaries.

THE English service papers of the 18th have arrived. Amongst articles likely to be of interest to our readers we would enumerate:

United Service Gazette.—The Anglo-American yacht race; the militia; the Enfield-Martini rifle; arming the personnel of horse and field artillery.

Broad Arrow.—Cavalry saddles; threes or fours for cavalry; British officers and their weapons; short comments.

Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette.—The ordnance scandals; naval titles; harbors of refuge.

Volunteer Service Gazette.—Miscellaneous jottings; the Martini-Enfield rifle.

Volunteer Service Review of 14th.—Military M.P.'s.; National rifle association principal winners this year; volunteer pigeon lofts.

Forest and Stream of 23rd.—The Creedmoor shooting; trap shooting reform, and many interesting articles on other branches of sport.

Colburn's for September.—Are we ready? Part II, by Col. Knollys; defective admiralty designs—E. Garel; intelligence service; our mercantile marine and the French navy in the great war; inventors and the admiralty.

Personals.

Lieut.-Col. T. Scott, M.P., commanding the 95th Manitoba Grenadiers, is in Ottawa. Amongst other business he proposes arranging with the militia authorities for a complete outfit for his corps.

Major-General Sir Fred. Middleton has returned to town from Toronto, where he has been detained by an attack of bronchitis. He is able to attend to his office duties.

Obituary.

HERBERT A. BAYNE, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.C., professor of chemistry in the royal military college at Kingston, died at Pictou on the 18th instant. Dr. Bayne was the eldest son of the Rev. James Bayne, D.D., late of Pictou. He was born in 1846, entered Dalhousie college, and graduated as B.A. with honors in 1869. He then became principal of Pictou academy and quickly gained a high reputation as a teacher and organizer, having undertaken with special enthusiasm the introduction of science teaching in the academy. After spending two years in Pictou he went to Germany to continue the scientific studies begun at Dalhousie, and devoted himself to chemistry under the best masters, studying under Wiedemann, of Leipzig; Biedermann, of Berlin; Bunsen, of Heidelberg, and Dumas, of Paris. He took his doctor's degree at Heidelberg. His kindly disposition and thorough manliness made him everywhere highly popular among his fellow-students, and his earnestness as a student won him the respect and esteem of his professors, several of whom considered him likely to extend by original investigation the bounds of the science to which he had devoted his energies. On Dr. Bayne's return to Canada after five years of study his services were secured by the school commissioners of Halifax to organize the scientific department of the high school, then just started, and it was he who planned the science class rooms in the new building. He was one of the leaders in starting the technological institute, which gave the citizens opportunities of self-improvement, which they had never enjoyed before. In 1879 he was appointed professor of chemistry in the royal military college, which had just been founded. Here he again found full scope for his remarkable organizing powers. He had not only to prepare lectures in chemistry and other allied subjects, but to originate and develop the scientific department of the college, to plan the laboratory and to stock it with apparatus. All this he did with an enthusiasm which commended success. Possibly it paved the way at the same time for the disease which has carried him off. During the first few years of his professorate, Dr. Bayne was too much occupied to justify the expectations of his European teachers by extending the science to which he had devoted himself. But during the last year or two he had been able to find more leisure and had given it to original research. The first result was a valuable paper on chemical tests of the purity of silk. This paper was communicated, at its last meeting, to the Royal Society of Canada, of which Dr. B. was one of the original Fellows. Dr. Bayne was a member of the cartridge commission appointed last year by the militia department, and his scientific report on the powder and the materials used in Snider cartridges made at the Quebec factory was most exhaustive. The riflemen of Canada can judge of the amount of labor caused by this investigation, when Dr. Bayne's analyses entailed some 3,000 weighings on fine balances besides the calculations of the results. The Dominion has lost an eminent man, and one whose place in the royal military college it will be difficult to fill. Four years ago Dr. Bayne married the eldest daughter of Howard Primrose, of Pictou. His young wife and child will have the warm sympathy both of a wide circle of personal friends and of a still wider circle, including all those who knew how little our country can afford to lose a man who was thoroughly fitted to become, and indeed had become, a leader in her educational and scientific development.

The Enfield-Martini Rifle.

THE following letters on this subject appeared in the *Times* of the 11th and 13th inst. respectively:

SIR,—In the House of Commons on Tuesday Mr. Woodall made the rather startling assertion that the new rifle "had elicited the warm approbation of skilled volunteers," who used it at Wimbledon. As one of those who fired it, permit me to say that, on the other hand, it was generally condemned, because (*inter alia*)—

1. The rifles were badly finished, badly fitted, and the parts shook about.

2. It cannot be cleaned from the breech end; if the Francotte variation of the Martini action were adopted this could be done, as was pub-