

strange to say, claim the right to name 15 additional men who with the 20 prize winners in the first stage, are to compete in the second stage, and the 20 making the highest scores are to form the team. I may also add that the second stage at 800 yards is to be fired by Martini-Henry Rifles with which our men have had no practice, as they are not issued to the forces here. It will be seen at once that these regulations are framed entirely in the interests of the Volunteers in Ottawa and the neighboring cities and for the benefit of the nominees of the Executive Committee of the D. R. A., and it may happen that the team will be composed principally of men who took no prizes in the Dominion Association matches, but who, from their interest at and vicinity to head quarters, have obtained Martini-Henry rifles, practiced constantly with them at 800 yards on the range at Ottawa, and obtained a nomination from the Executive Committee. It may be said that the Committee will be impartial in their nominations and select men equally from all the Provinces. It may be so, but when you look at the names on that committee and see that ten of them belong to Ottawa, two to Montreal, one to Hamilton, one to Brockville and one to New Brunswick, none of the other Provinces being represented; and bear in mind the treatment our men have previously experienced at the Ottawa matches, which is well known to many volunteers here, I am afraid that even if they were accustomed to use the Martini-Henry Rifle, the Volunteers from this Province would have very little prospect of getting on the team.

Ever since the Dominion Rifle Association ceased to hold its meetings in the different Provinces it has become to all intents and purposes an Ottawa Association, and not at all what it was originally intended. But until this year the marksmen of the Maritime Provinces always had an opportunity of competing on equal terms for the honor of being on the Wimbledon team. It seems, however, that the intention now is, that it should be selected from the neighborhood of Ottawa, or by the Executive Council of the D. R. A., and if this is the case it had much better be done openly and not by a series of regulations which effect the same purpose in a round about way. Some may say, it is very easy to find fault with the mode proposed, but can you suggest anything better? I would reply, that if it is desired that the team should be composed of the best available shots in the Dominion without reference to the separate Provinces, the scheme adopted last year of having a competition in each Province, is the fairest, and one to which no reasonable objection can be urged. I am aware that there were some difficulties experienced last year in carrying it out, but they arose solely in consequence of the want of proper and definite regulations as to the time and mode of firing, and I am satisfied that if some competent officials, of whom there are plenty in the Dominion, would undertake to frame such rules, that scheme could in future be carried out to the satisfaction of every Volunteer in Canada. If the Association cannot find officers competent to make rules, or has not sufficient confidence in the members of its council, resident in the different Provinces, to see them fairly and honestly carried out, and it is absolutely requisite that the competition should take place at Ottawa, then let each Provincial Association send a definite number of competitors, say sixteen from Ontario, twelve from Quebec, eight from New Brunswick, eight from Nova Scotia and a proportionate number from the other Pro-

vinces, and let the team be selected from them by competition, and, in order to equalize matters, all the competitors not resident in Ottawa should be allowed their expenses and a reasonable compensation for their extra loss of time while travelling.

If it is thought preferable that each Province should be represented on the team in proportion to the number of active militia within it, then let so many be allotted to each Province to be selected by each Provincial Association in such a way as it may think most advisable, and I have no doubt but that the best available shots will be sent.

I feel satisfied from a past experience that the marksmen of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are quite able to hold their own in any competition if they get fair play, and I trust that the volunteers of the Maritime Provinces will carefully consider the regulations I have referred to, and at once make united and determined efforts to have them cancelled, and not rest satisfied until the scheme for selecting the Wimbledon Team is established upon a basis likely to be permanent, and one that will do justice to competitors from all parts of the Dominion. If anything is to be done, there is no time like the present. The volunteers of the Lower Provinces should not allow the Team to be selected at Ottawa under the published regulations without manifesting their entire disapproval of them, and intimating to the Council of the D. R. A. their determination to have the Wimbledon Team fairly and impartially selected from the best shots giving everyone an equal chance, and to leave no means untried in order to effect that object.

I remain, yours truly,
RIFLEMAN.



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