

before 1st squad is expected to finish. By following this system which succeeded to a charm in the matches of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, much time would be saved, and competitors tempers much improved.

Second.—The system of putting raw youths from the country on as squad commanders is bad, they are not half so efficient as steady non-commissioned officers of the regulars. They, to give them their due, do their best, but not being much accustomed to command, are readily imposed upon and persuaded to allow many things which are objectionable. Witness the signalling of last shots in Battalion matches where one Battalion is said to have got credit or rather double credit for nearly every shot fired at 600 yds. range.

Thirdly.—The having a large number of officers, supposed to be on the executive, no one of whom is responsible for anything, and all of whom blame their neighbours if anything goes wrong. One man who understands his work is worth far more than a whole committee of the above nature.

Fourthly.—The officer or officers entrusted with the laying out of the ranges deserve grave censure for their carelessness and the slovenly manner in which the firing points were made, at most of them the 36 inches wide, made of soft turf easily worked into holes, making it the easiest thing in the world for a competitor inclined to be dishonest, to dig holes for each elbow and so form a perfect rest. All firing points should be planked over and made quite level. In the end planking will be found much cheaper than spade work and much more permanent. Many of the firing points were too low, and some of the markers butts, especially that of No. 16 target were too high, No. 13 actually covering about one foot of the target and causing misses that would have been low centres or outers on a proper target. Again the management must have been grievously at fault, when even as late as the last day of the matches it was found that the mounds at 900 yds had been neglected, and the competitors had to wait nearly an hour for mounds to be raised.

Fifthly.—A cause of great annoyance to most of the competitors was their being debarred the use of telescopes. Certainly one of the rules of the meeting, No. 21, reads "No telescope or field glass except those in possession of the officers of the Association, shall be allowed within twenty yards of any firing point." I should like to know what the object was in naming twenty yards unless it was intended that beyond that distance glasses were to be allowed. Certainly had telescopes been allowed, the burlesque of men who had missed the target getting credit for the hits made by the man who fired before them would not have happened. The use of telescopes besides is an immense check on the markers who get careless if they are aware of not being watched. At

the Q. P. R. matches in the written orders for the markers were cautioned that powerful telescopes were in use at every firing points and that they would immediately be detected and punished if they turned careless. They were said to be an advantage to the parties who wished to use them, for my part I can only say that with the present discarding their only use is to verify the marking, and to save time by showing misses at long ranges that could not be detected by the naked eye. Certain it is that glasses were ordered off the ground and their owners treated with very scant courtesy by Capt. Northey, who presumed on his authority as umpire and forgot his position entirely, making a most unpleasant and unseemly scene with the writer, proving most decidedly his unsuitability for the appointment of umpire as a man who cannot control his temper and gives way to petty spite is unfit for such a post.

Seventhly.—Great dissatisfaction was caused by the number of men in the Battalion Match being increased to ten. It is understood that the number of protests against the increased number was greater than the actual number of battalions competing. Last year 39 Battalions competed, this year only 11. Practically it was reduced to a match for the environs of Toronto. One thing the members of the Council for the Dominion Rifle Association residing in Toronto ought to remember is that they are not the whole Dominion, and that the Government grant of money was intended to encourage the shooting of the whole Dominion and not merely to foster the Ontario Rifle Association and the townsmen of Toronto in particular. One thing is very certain that should the matches of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association take place in Toronto next year the attendance from Quebec will be next to nothing, as one and all of the competitors from the Province of Quebec feel that they have been treated with studied neglect and incivility and that innumerable frivolous and contemptible objections have been raised against them. I will not encroach further on your space at present, but in a future number I will point out many objectionable features in the programme which gave satisfaction to neither Snider nor small bore men. Before closing I must bear testimony to the great kindness and civility shown to all competitors by Cols. Stuart and Fletcher who certainly did their duty in the most satisfactory manner.

I am, Sir,

Your obed't. servt.

ROYAL.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—As your Toronto correspondent still harps on his *soi-disant* challenge I must decline to bandy words with him. The letter and the telegram speak for themselves. The Montreal Club will never shoot a simultaneous match with any club again.

I am at a loss to understand Mr. Russell's meaning when he hints that I have been hauled over the coals by members of my club. If he is in the habit of being treated thus perhaps he may imagine that others are in the same case. However, one thing is certain the Montreal Rifle Club will never shoot a match with the Toronto Rifle Club on any terms whatever until Mr. Russell apologises for his ill-judged and insulting letters. I shall endeavor to find time during the coming week to write you a description of the many imperfections and bad arrangements of the Dominion meeting just finished, and to point out simple remedies for said defects.

I am, Sir, your obed't. servant,

JAS. ESDALE,

Secretary M. R. C.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS AND CIRCULARS.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—Officers and non-commissioned officers of the Volunteer Force are very desirous of a change in the present mode of publishing Militia General Orders and Circulars. I am sure my suggestions will meet the Adjutant-General's consideration, as they tend to economy, and enable every Volunteer officer to always have on hand orders and regulations issued from time to time.

I would therefore suggest, 1st. That all orders, etc., be printed on note paper instead of the large and cumbersome foolscap now issued, and smaller print used; 2nd. That these orders should be classified and printed under two heads—first, orders relative to appointments and promotions—second, orders and circulars relative to pay, discipline, stores, clothing, etc. By this means every officer could easily fill the latter orders and at the end of the year have a hand book of Militia General Orders and Circulars which they could conveniently bring with them on service or elsewhere ready for reference.

It would also be a great boon if all such Militia General Orders and Circulars as are permanent were reprinted and published in a small pamphlet form and distributed throughout the Volunteer Force. As things now stand many officers, etc., could with reason plead ignorance of orders; it being a matter of impossibility to find one officer out of every hundred in possession of all General Orders and Circulars issued, and why? Because they are not regularly received, and because retiring officers are not made to transfer to their successors the orders they have received.

Commanding officers of corps would do well to cause every officer under their command to produce at the annual inspection of their battalion or companies all General Orders and Circulars received during the past year as well as those transferred.

Y. N. L.

Quebec, 10th Sept. 1888.