

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Topics of the Week.

It is odd that more associations do not take up Toronto's repeated challenges to telegraphic competitions. A match with the Halifax riflemen, for instance, would be decidedly interesting, in view of the great scores recently accumulated down by the sea.

The recent military tournament in London, England, will be the means of contributing a sum of £14,000 to the funds of the Cambridge Hospital for old and disabled soldiers. This sum exceeds by £4,000 the amount raised by any previous tournament, and the War Office has now decided that the event shall take place annually and shall be official.

Capt. H. C. Freer, I.S.C., attached as lieutenant to "B" company, at St. Johns, Que., has been transferred to "D" Company, London, Ont., in which he will act as captain. Capt. Freer's leave of absence from the Imperial South Staffordshire Regiment expires in the fall, when he will probably have to rejoin it or abandon his commission. Capt. J. W. Sears, with "C" Company, Toronto, who has had similar leave from the same regiment, has given notice of his intention to return to it in the fall.

A Canadian militia officer, Capt. C. Greville Harston, of the 10th Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, had the exceptional honour of appointment to the staff of this year's camp at Wimbledon. His duties were especially in connection with the quick firing competitions. The honour was no doubt conferred in recognition of Capt. Harston's services in connection with his magazine attachment invention, as well as out of compliment to the Canadian militia, of which he is a worthy representative.

The comprehensive handbook entitled "Rank, Badges and Dates in Her Majesty's Army and Navy," and constituting an invaluable reference work and record of the noted events in the annals of these services, has been officially approved by the Intelligence Department of the Army, and has been placed in the War Office Library. The author of this "Service Debrett" is Capt. Otley L. Perry, of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. This officer, who is a ready and reliable writer on military topics, travelled through Canada last fall, and was then at work in revising the work for the second

edition, which has lately made its appearance, showing a considerable increase in size over the first, the volume now comprising upwards of 500 pages of information constantly sought after. An idea of its scope may be gathered from the following list of titles of some of the parts: Salutes and compliments; Badges of rank, of trade, music, and skill at arms, etc.; Precedence of corps and of officers; Regimental records, mottoes, uniforms, etc.; Sieges, battles and campaigns; Small arms (ancient and modern); Armorial ensigns and their bearers. The publishers are Wm. Clowes & Sons (Limited), 13 Charing Cross, and the price is 7s. 6d.

As expected, the council of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association have decided, in default of an available range elsewhere, to hold the annual prize competition at Ottawa this year. It will commence on Tuesday, 7th August. The association will furnish all competitors from Quebec province tickets from Montreal to Ottawa and return, without charge. This generous action should result in an undiminished attendance from the province, while the fact that the matches are held on Rideau range will increase the attendance of Ottawa men, who every year take a prominent part in the matches at Montreal.

General disappointment has been felt at the failure of the Canadian team to secure representation in the final stage of the Queen's prize competition at Wimbledon this year. Only one of our men, Sergt. Miner of the 71st, got into the second stage even, his total of 91 out of 105 possible being the sole Canadian score above the 87 points necessary. Sergt. Short, G.G.F.G., was next with 86. Last year 83 points proved sufficient for entry into the second with the 300 top scorers of the 2,477 competitors in the first stage. Five Canadians then passed, viz., Sergt. Ogg, 92; Pte. Gillies, 90; Pte. Thomson, 89; Colour-Sergt. Mitchell, 86, and Sergt. Langstroth, 85; and three of these also got places in the hundred shooting in the final stage, Langstroth finishing 7th, Ogg 20th, and Thomson 29th on the list. The English shooting in the Queen's thus appears to have been several points better this year than last, whilst the Canadians varied the other way. Our team, however, abundantly made up in other matches for their lack of success in this one, and in the grand aggregate surpassed by 18 points the best Canadian score of 1887. In the Kolapore cup competition they also surpassed last year's score, finishing second with 674 points, the Mother Country total being 687, a decrease of 23 points from the winning score of 1887. The winnings of the team we expect will turn out to be above the average, especially in view of the fact that they alone participated in the London Corporation's generous prizes for colonial volunteers, there being no other colonials present.

"We should like to be informed," says *Broad Arrow*, anent recent drill changes, "if it is intended that all wheels into line from column are to be abolished? For instance, a column advancing is required to advance in line; the C. O. can no longer say, "Left wheel into line, forward," but must either say "Left form into line," followed by "The line