

Arrangements have been completed for putting in two extra long range targets at the Rideau Range. This, although it will not give as much accommodation at 800 and 900 yards as there ought to be, will be a great improvement on last year, and will prevent the long range matches from being the eternal source of annoyance which they have heretofore proved. Want of ground alone prevented the further extension of the range in respect to long distance accommodation.

Some of this year's Quebec ammunition has been sent here, and two or three of our shots had a preliminary trial of it last week, and pronounced it satisfactory so far. Major Perley, who got in a possible at 500 yards, pronounces it particularly satisfactory. Firing it against the 1887 make, it appears to require two or three degrees less elevation, but those who made the trial are unwilling to commit themselves upon a test. Taking all the evidence so far adduced it looks as though single we might congratulate ourselves on a much needed improvement.

The Ontario Rifle Association shooting programme for 1888, which has just been prepared, shows no material changes from that of last year, the committee declining to follow the lead of the Dominion association in the matter of the abolition of Snider shooting at 600 yards, or the further substitution of the Martini for the rifle of the force. The prize list remains about the same. The matches, which will be fired on the Garrison Common ranges, Toronto, open on the last Monday in August, being held as usual one week in advance of the Dominion competition at Ottawa.

The feeling of insecurity which arose in Europe when the somewhat unexpected death of the respected and admired Frederick left the reins of government in Germany in the hands of a young and untried Prince, has gradually subsided, and the nations are congratulating themselves that the first utterances of the new Emperor are not bellicose, as was expected. But it is a serious business to have the fates of nations dependent, as they undoubtedly are, on the levelheadedness of one who has shown many traits of character far from admirable. We at least can congratulate ourselves that on this continent no one man possesses such absolute power, and that we are divided by an ocean from the powder mine that is inseparable from the maintenance of the vast standing armies of Europe.

The question of holding the Quebec provincial matches on the Rideau Range here is being gravely discussed, and, although at first sight it seems absurd for an association to desert its own territory, there appears to be no other way out of the difficulty. Even with more energetic action than is to be expected, the new ranges at Côte St. Luc can hardly be prepared in six weeks' time, and there is no other range in Quebec having a tithe of the necessary accommodation. There are some things to be said, too, in favor of the scheme. It would give the competitors practice on the Rideau Range in advance of the Dominion matches, and it would probably attract many shots from Ontario and so ensure a good attendance. If the association decides to adopt this plan, we can assure them of the cordial co-operation of the Ottawa shots.

The shabby trick played upon the volunteers from Niagara camp, sent by orders from headquarters to participate in the ceremonies connected with the formal opening of Niagara Falls Park on Thursday last, should serve as a lesson for the future. Notwithstanding the lavish promises of the local committee, the volunteers had no attention whatever paid to their needs when at the park, where they wanted for both food and water. After a miserable day, they returned to the camp thoroughly disgusted. As in the seven hundred who made the trip all the corps in camp—except the artillery—were represented, the work of the whole two thousand was interrupted. Surely the period of twelve days authorized for drill is short enough without lopping off a day here and there because politicians demand the loan of the troops to make money for local demonstration committees.

COL. OTTER'S MODEL CAMP.

The Second Military District Annual Outing at Niagara.

Strength and Composition of the Camp—The Staff—Artillery and Rifle Practice and the Results—Visit of General Middleton—No Holiday Manœuvres Prescribed—Except to Niagara—Where the Soldiers "got left"—Incidents of the Twelve Days' Under Canvas.

TWELVE days of honest service being completed, the camp of the second military district, which was formed at Niagara on the 12th inst., came to a conclusion on Saturday last, the 23rd. The corps in camp were C Co. of the Infantry School Corps; the Hamilton, Toronto, and Welland Canal Field Batteries; the 12th Battalion of Infantry, "York Rangers;" 34th "Ontario" Battalion of Infantry; 35th Battalion of Infantry, "Simcoe Foresters;" 36th "Peel" Battalion of Infantry; 37th "Haldimand" Battalion of Rifles; and the 77th "Wentworth" Battalion of Infantry. All were close on nominal strength—some over and some under. The total strength was as follows:

	OFFICERS.	N.C.O. AND MEN.
12th Battalion	29	328
34th "	17	278
35th "	23	255
36th "	22	336
37th "	26	294
77th "	19	258
Toronto Field Battery	4	65
Hamilton " "	5	66
Welland Canal F. B.	4	68
	149	1948

Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., was in command, and the staff was composed as follows: Brigade Major, Lieut.-Col. Gray; Paymaster, Lieut.-Col. Alger; Camp Adjutant and Provost Officer, Capt. Sears, I.S.C.; Supply Officer, Major McLaren, 13th Batt.; Camp Quartermaster, Capt. Mutton, Queen's Own Rifles; Musketry Instructor, Capt. Adam, 13th Batt.; Orderly Officer, Capt. Stuart, 13th Batt.; Principal Medical Officer, Surgeon Major Riddall, 36th Batt.

C Company, I.S.C., was largely drawn upon for the staff sergeants, Sergt.-Major Cumming and Quartermaster-Sergeant Swanson filling those positions for the brigade, Sergt. Davis being orderly room clerk, and Sergt. Lowe hospital sergeant. The supply sergeant was Sergt. Stannard, of the 13th Batt., and Sergt. Harris of the same corps was sergeant instructor of musketry. Sergt. Instructor Belan, of C Co., acted as Sergeant-Major of the 77th Batt.

A MODEL CAMPING GROUND.

The camp was delightfully situated, on the site which has now apparently become the permanent camping ground for the district, on the high land in rear of the town of Niagara, and overlooking the mouth of the Niagara river. Upon this ground, which is ordnance land, and therefore permanently available for military purposes, the whole Canadian militia might be comfortably quartered, so great is its extent. A generous allowance of space was made in laying out the camp, there being no crowding. One row of tents, from front to rear, was set apart for each company. The officers' tents were in rear of those of the men, and were separated from them by a spacious lawn, probably forty yards in width, running the entire length of the camp. At the rear boundary of the men's and officers' tents respectively, were the cooking conveniences, mess marquees, canteens, etc. The supply of water was drawn from artesian wells within the lines of each regiment, the water being of exceptional coolness and purity. In addition to these natural advantages, the extent of the parade ground available made it possible for each corps to drill apart from all the rest, interference and confusion being thus avoided.

The quarters of the commandant and staff were at the extreme left of the camp, in a well-shaded grove attached to an old wooden building now altogether dilapidated, but nevertheless useful for office and similar purposes. This building has probably seen half a century's service as a head centre for military men at Niagara.

THE WORK PERFORMED.

Strict attention was paid to the drill prescribed day by day in the brigade orders, and the drill was of the most practical character, purely parade movements being noticeable only by their absence.