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THE GROWTH OF RIFLE SHOOTING.

An attendance of 434, or rather a gross entry list of that number this year, compared with the best previous record of 416, has been generally accepted as an assurance of satisfactory progress on the part of the Dominion Rifle Association. In 1884 the entry list was only 284, but steadily rising each year it reached 416 in 1889, lost nothing to speak of with 412 in 1890, and this year made further progress as indicated above. An analysis of the entry returns, however, shows that the increase has not been of a nature to give unmixed satisfaction, coming as it does almost wholly from one Province, Ontario, whilst from other parts of the Dominion there has for many years been practically no growth in the attendance. The following comparative statement will show the position at a glance:

	1884	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91
Ontario.....	136	146	163	185	193	219	227	236
Quebec.....	74	88	80	85	77	85	93	84
New Brunswick.....	27	25	29	30	28	33	22	24
Nova Scotia.....	26	23	31	32	30	50	38	57
Manitoba.....	13	9	10	14	11	12	11	12
British Columbia.....	0	0	9	5	5	1	6	8
Prince Edward Island..	8	11	10	12	10	13	15	13
Totals.....	284	302	332	363	354	416	412	434

The figures given for Nova Scotia include 15 competitors from the Regulars at Halifax, and the figures for that Province for 1889 were similarly swelled. Still Nova Scotia shows a slight and steady increase. New Brunswick shows a corresponding decline, Quebec, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island remain stationary, and British Columbia sent more representatives this year than any other except the first. The most natural observation to make concerning the above figures, is that Ontario leads so conspicuously because favoured in distance to be travelled, but a further examination shows that this is not the proper explanation. Ottawa city and district contributed the large total of 84 entries, but from the district of Toronto, 260 miles distant, there were 86, or more than the entire number from the whole Province of Quebec, whose chief shooting centres, the cities of Montreal and Quebec, are respectively 120 and 254 miles distant from Ottawa. From the far Western district of Ontario there were 32 entries, and these competitors, travelling an average of 350 miles each way, had not the advantage enjoyed by those from the Maritime Provinces, of free transportation over a Government railway for the greater part of their journey. And the attendance of the Manitoba and British Columbia delegations, from provinces distant from Ottawa 1,300 and 2,800 miles respectively, shows how space can be annihilated by the enthusiasm which the ideal rifleman has for his sport.

As it stands, the attendance at the Dominion meeting is something to be proud of, and in contrasting as we have done the disproportion between the entries from the several provinces our idea is not to suggest that the Association has been other than in reality a Dominion institution. It seems, however, well worth while to inquire into the cause of so markedly keener an appreciation on the part of Ontario of the inducements held out by the D. R. A., and to make an effort to arouse greater interest in other parts of the Dominion. The great central rifle meeting should be kept as prominently as possible before the attention of the militia men in every Province, until "On to Ottawa" shall become the motto inspiring every rifleman, and stimulating him to strive to excel in the preparatory meetings of the regimental, county, district, or provincial associations.

THE PRINCESS LOUISE FUSILIERS.

The annual inspection of the 66th Batt. Princess Louise Fusiliers, Halifax, took place this week, the inspecting officer being Major Gordon, Acting Deputy Adjutant General. The officers present were Lieut.-Col. Humphrey (in command), Majors Weston and Menger, Paymaster Humphrey, Captain Kemy, Adjutant, Captains Chipman, Brown, Whitman, King, Hole and MacKinlay, Lieutenants Ritchie Smith, Lewis, Wallace Ternan, Nagle, Stairs and Harrington Quartermaster Stevens and Asst.-Surgeon Kirkpatrick.

The battalion was formed in the Drill Shed in quarter column, with pioneers, band and drums on the right, and the inspecting officer was received with a general salute; ranks were then opened, and a minute inspection of every officer and man was made by Major Gordon. Afterwards the march-past and review exercises were gone through in the drill yard, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Humphrey, and a number of battalion movements were done under the command of Majors Weston and Menger.

The battalion paraded nearly full strength, there being on parade 308 N. C. officers and men out of 336, and a number of certificates of illness were produced for absentees. The parade was as fine a one as the battalion ever had, the men being particularly well set up, with accoutrements and clothing clean and bright, and their steadiness in the different movements showed the effects of the numerous drills performed during the season.

The band of this regiment has steadily improved, until now it is probably second to few in the Dominion.

After the inspection the acquittance rolls were called and each man upon his name being called was required to step to the front of his company and answer thereto.

Major Gordon expressed himself as being much pleased with the physique, dress and drill of the regiment.

After the inspection the officers were entertained by Lieut.-Col. Humphrey; and Major Weston, on behalf of the officers, presented to him the photo lately on view at Messrs. Notman's.