

are not, at the present moment, quite so bright as might be desired, and the surest way to still farther dimming them, is to float an opposition which is foredoomed to failure, and which may do more to discourage rifle shooting "throughout the Queen's dominions," than is, or can be, generally supposed. For this reason, if for no other, we trust that a virtue will be made of necessity, and that a long and united pull will be made in the direction so urgently needed on the part of the home Army, whose proud boast and motto is, "Defence, not Defiance."

Regimental Notes.

RIFLE SHOOTING ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Some time recently, says the *Lindsay Warder*, a rifle match between Lindsay and Fenelon Falls divisions of Victoria County Rifle Association, was arranged by Capt. Geo. S. Thompson and Capt. B. Wills, respectively. New Year's was selected as the day, Fenelon Falls the place, ten rounds per man, and ten or eleven men a side. The Lindsay contingent chartered a special train, and accompanied by an excursion party and Road Superintendent Harry Ferguson, went to Fenelon Falls on New Year's morning. The weather was much more favourable than could have been expected, and as a consequence the shooting was good. But what surprised the Lindsay division was the extraordinary marksmanship of the Fenelon Falls team. Only a few of them were accustomed to the Snider rifle, a circumstance which renders their wonderful shooting all the more remarkable. Further, they have had only a few practices, and had scarcely learned the pull of the trigger. The following were the scores out of a possible 50:—

Lindsay—Major Sam Hughes, 48; Capt. R. Sylvester, 44; I. H. Oliver, 44; Staff-Sergt. Williamson, 43; Sergt. Robinson, 41; Dougall Sinclair, 40; J. H. Sootheran, 40; Capt. E. H. Hopkins, 40; Capt. Geo. S. Thompson, 36; J. Mark, 36; J. Blackwell, 35. Total, 447.

Fenelon Falls—J. Tripp, 44; M. Marshall, 44; J. Palmer, 44; Findlay MacDougall, 44; J. A. Brandon, 44; Sam Swanton, 40; J. Austin, 39; Capt. Todd, 38; R. Marshall, 36; J. A. Ellis, 34; Hugh MacDougall, 29. Total, 436.

The majority for Lindsay was thus only 11 points.

Seldom has better shooting been made at 200 and 500 yards, and Victoria County may well congratulate herself on her riflemen. After the match the visitors were shown the sights, the falls, the mills, the paper manufactory, &c., and then were given a grand banquet at the McArthur house, specially prepared by "mine host," the genial Noble Ingram. After justice was done the viands, S. Swanton, reeve of the village and president of the Fenelon Falls division of Victoria County Rifle Association, took the chair, and Capt. Geo. S. Thompson the vice chair. After honouring the Queen, and many other loyal toasts, and listening to speeches from Messrs. Swanton, Thompson, Hughes, Todd, Brandon, McDougall, Marshall, Wills, Ferguson, Sylvester, Mark, and Hopkins, the meeting adjourned after singing "God Save the Queen" and "Auld Lang Syne."

There were upwards of sixty at the private banquet to the Lindsay club. Cheers and a "tiger" were given for Noble Ingram.

After the banquet the whole party, headed by Fenelon Falls brass band, marched to the station where the special train was waiting; and after cheers, songs, and music from the band, the train drew out, all joining in singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

On the homeward trip Capt. Sylvester was elected chairman, and on motion of Major Hughes, seconded by Mr. D. Sinclair, a resolution of thanks was passed to Capt. Geo. S. Thompson for energy and trouble in arranging and conducting the match. Similar resolutions were passed to Mr. Harold Clark, the scorer, and to Mr. May, the marker, as well as to the Fenelon Falls division of the rifle association for their extreme courtesy and kindness.

Messrs. McDougall and Brandon will be backed by *The Warder* against any other two members of one business firm in Ontario, with the rifle.

Findley MacDougall, J. Brandon and Jas. Marshall, drilled in the 45th battalion in 1874 and onward. Their hands have not lost their cunning yet. Fenelon Falls is determined to have a company of active militia. It now has none.

The military ball given by the officers of the 40th Batt. at the opera House in Cobourg on the evening of the 11th inst. was a perfect success in every particular, except, perhaps, in the manner in which the invitations to the other corps of their own and adjoining districts were responded to. It was expected that at least a representation from a majority of the invited corps would have attended, but in this Lieut.-Col. Rogers and his officers were greatly disappointed. For some years this regiment has endeavoured to promote good fellowship and the consequent benefits produced by social intercourse among comrades, and it is generally regretted that their endeavours have not been more successful.

The Charlottetown, P. E. I., *Examiner* thus speaks of a promotion recently gazetted: "Our numerous readers will have been pleased to notice by our Ottawa telegraphic news on Saturday evening, that Major F. S. Moore, of this city, has been promoted to the Colonelcy of the Prince Edward Island Garrison Artillery. We now desire to convey our congratulations to Colonel Moore on his promotion, and in doing so, we are pleased to know that the appointment is received by our military friends with very great satisfaction. The fact that the appointment was quite unexpected by the recipient adds, in no small degree, to the honourable distinction thus conferred upon him. Possessing five companies of Garrison Artillery, and being the "banner" Province of the Dominion in military matters, it was a graceful act on the part of the general government to give us a Colonel of Artillery, and we are sure our military men will be pleased to see that their work is thus appreciated at Ottawa. We have more than once made the statement that we owe our present efficient military standing to the zeal and energy of such officers as Colonel Moore; and we again tender Colonel Irving, who stands at the head of the department in this Province, as the right man in the right place, our congratulations in having such an efficient officer more closely united with him on his staff."

Gleanings.

The Chinese Army is stated to be improving in many respects. Target practice takes place in July and August, when 100 cartridges are expended by each man. Bad shots are punished, and at the autumnal inspection of the General commanding, the best marksmen are rewarded with square silver medals; but as the General's dog is permitted to wear the same adornment, the distinction is not overflattering. The soldiers are well paid. The officers are represented as wholly uneducated and dependent for promotion on the caprice of some magnate, for whom they are ready to perform the most menial offices. They undergo an examination prior to appointment, which, however, consists chiefly in fencing (with one sword or two), wrestling, etc. They spend their leisure on the divan, dicing, chattering or picking the guitar. Most of them are addicted to smoking opium, though the practice is forbidden. Drunkenness is also common. The non-commissioned officers are trained in a school at Kirin; but they are not better paid than the privates, their sole privilege being to adorn their hats with a brass button; but the entire pack of menials belonging to a General's establishment assume the distinction as a matter of course, wherefore it cannot be held in high estimation.

The steel-casting works of Krupp cover an area of about 1,000 acres of land, in which 11,211 men are employed in the production of steel, and also in the manufacture of countless different articles, such as axles, wheels, etc., for locomotives and railroad carriages; rails, switches, and sleepers; bridge material and rolls; all requisite steel and iron for the building of ships of all sizes, for war and commercial purposes; cannons of every calibre—the production of them having already exceeded 20,000—and last, gun-carriages, artillery wagons, and shots. The gross production of iron and steel averages 260,000 tons per annum. For accommodation of traffic and shipping in the establishment are used twenty-eight locomotives with 883 freight carriages. About forty-five miles of narrow and broad gauge railroad line is laid through the establishment. One chemical laboratory, one photographic and lithographic studio, one printing office and a book-binding establishment, are at work for the sole use of the firm. Telegraph and telephone communication goes all over the factory and an engine company with sixty-eight firemen and thirty-eight fire alarms is also there for the benefit of the establishment.

Recent tests in England of the new Swedish explosive, Bellite, would seem to sustain the claim that it excels dynamite in explosive force, while diffusing its energy over a wider surface, generating its gas more slowly. To show its security, half a ton weight of iron was dropped 20 ft. on to a packet of cartridges, resting on a thick iron slab, without producing explosion, while beyond causing breakage, the ignition of 1 lb. of gunpowder inside a paper parcel containing naked cartridges proved similarly harmless. Nor was the fire experiment less successful, a lump of Bellite thrown on cinders blown to a white heat merely melting or fusing away with scarcely appreciable ignition. It is carried as ordinary merchandise in Switzerland. Bellite is a compound of nitrate of ammonium with di or tri-nitro-benzole, in the proportions of about five of the former to one of the latter.

Says the U. S. *Army and Navy Journal*:—"The Board appointed some years ago to report upon magazine guns are no doubt gratified to find that their judgment as to the best system has been approved by the English Small Arms Committee and by the British Secretary of State, who declares that in the Lee the British soldier will have the best rifle