

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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Topics of the Week.

Our representatives at Bisley will be eligible for a new team competition this year, the prize of one hundred guineas offered by the proprietors of the *London Standard* being appropriated for an international and intercolonial match for teams of twelve, firing under skirmishing conditions between 700 and 300 yards. The detailed conditions of the competition are given under The Rifle heading in this issue. A statement of the numerous other changes in the N.R.A. programme for this year will appear next week.

There will probably be some confusion at the League matches on Saturday with respect to the 200 yards targets, on which, according to the new rule of the N. R. A. and D. R. A., the inner should be only 16 inches, and the magpie 24, in place of 24 and 36 inches respectively, as has been the regulation up to the present.

We would commend to the attention of the Minister of Militia the propriety of allowing the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association to share in the grants in aid of rifle shooting of which he has the distribution. True, there are no militia in the North-West, and for the present the expense of the maintenance of a military force there is not to be incurred. But as the young men are voluntarily engaging as a pastime in the most useful of the soldier's accomplishments—rifle shooting, it would be a graceful act on the part of the Minister to assist in the development of a body of sharpshooters to serve as a nucleus for the body of militia we will undoubtedly yet have in the North-West. The report of the annual meeting of the association, appearing in our last issue, shows what a vigorous institution it is.

Our Montreal news of this week contains another complaint against the location of the infantry school for Quebec, which might be closed up without much loss, for all the use made of it.

That was a discerning priest who, preaching to the Sixty-fifth Battalion in Montreal the other day, advised that all young men should

join the volunteers and thus help to avoid the temptation to spend the evenings in saloons or billiard rooms. He was sorry to see only one French regiment in Montreal, where he thought there should be three or four.

The House of Commons this week unanimously adopted the report, printed in a recent issue, of the committee appointed to investigate the Bremner fur matter. General Middleton, who stated before the committee that he now believed his action in confiscating the furs to have been irregular, has offered indemnity for that portion of the lot disposed of by his order. Several members held that the General should be held responsible for the total value of the furs, and as Bremner has to be paid for all it now remains with the Government to say to what extent their officer is to be held personally responsible. In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman of the committee, Mr. McNeill, very fairly pointed out that General Middleton had ordered a memorandum to be kept of the furs disposed of by his orders, and therefore could not be properly charged, as he has been by misinformed persons, with attempting concealment of the transaction.

The indications are that Toronto will have an immense military parade on Dominion Day. There appears to be no limit to the enterprise of the Queen City, and success never fails to crown her undertakings. Great as will be this military parade, and despite the fame of the great American regiment invited, the Toronto militiamen may be trusted to show themselves on this occasion second to none in drill and discipline.

Regimental and other News.

The Peterborough Council have voted \$400 to the 57th to help in entertaining the Queen's Own on the 24th May.

Fred E. Meyers, who has been very ill with consumption throughout nearly the whole winter, succumbed to the disease and died on Friday, 2nd inst. He had been a resident of Picton all his life, and was a member of the 16th Battalion regimental band. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon to Glenwood cemetery, with military honours. The Citizens' band played the dead march—the firing party marched with arms reversed—the regimental band carried their instruments reversed and draped with crape. Lt.-Col. Thomas Bog, Senior Major Alex. McDonnell and Capts. Lighthall and Wycott, in uniform, were present in the procession to pay their last tribute of respect to the dead bandsman. The streets were lined with citizens who had turned out to witness the procession and take part in the obsequies. The customary three volleys were fired over the grave.

Quebec.

The fifth anniversary of the fight at Cut Knife Hill, between a portion of Col. Otter's column and the combined Sioux and Cree rebels, under Poundmaker, was duly celebrated by B Battery at the Citadel, Quebec, on Friday, the 2nd inst. The gunners and drivers dined together at 8 p.m. in the gunners' recreation room, the room being prettily decorated with flags, etc., for the occasion, and the commissariat being supplemented from the canteen fund by the kind permission of the Commandant. A very pleasant time was spent, the veteran North-Westerns giving their campaign experience, etc. The Sergeants gave their annual dinner in their handsome mess room at 8.30 p.m., same date, when some forty covers were laid, the tables being tastefully decor-