

The annual prize meeting commencing on the 12th August, and lasting three days, was a very successful one and unattended with accident of any kind, the management and working details went very smoothly, and much credit is due to Capt. Scoones who undertook the office work during the meeting.

The number of competitors was large, and the prize list as attractive as any previous year, if not more so.

The weather was favorable and the shooting very fair considering that many of the Snider rifles in use by the militia corps in this district are to a great extent useless for accurate target practice, and those members who are obliged to use them against others who have their own rifles have very little chance of winning any of the best prizes, but as a competent armourer from the Imperial army is on his way to Winnipeg to put the rifles issued to the corps in the district in thorough repair, the council hope that at the next meeting things will be more equalized.

Mrs. Wrigley, the wife of the president, fired the first shot on the opening day, on which occasion by kind permission of Lieut.-Col. Taylor, the band of the mounted infantry corps was in attendance, and the range assumed a very gay aspect, there being a number of ladies on the ground. Mrs. Wrigley also very kindly presented the prizes to the winners at the drill hall on the Monday evening after the matches.

A novelty at the meeting was the revolving man target put up by S. L. Bedson, Esq., 1st vice-president, which afforded much amusement and useful practice to competitors. Sighting shots were discontinued for the first time except at the 1,000 yard range, which was a saving of much time, but to give competitors a chance of sighting their rifles at all the ranges, it was resolved at the special general meeting held at the conclusion of the prize meeting that the extra series matches be kept open all through the matches, also that there be a revolver match, and 200 and 800 yards matches with the Martini-Henry rifles.

The highest praise is due to Major Boswell, range officer, and to the non-com. officers and men employed on the range and at the butts for the regularity and zeal with which their arduous work was performed.

A telephone was kindly placed at the disposal of the association by Mr. Walsh of the Bell Telephone Company, saving much time and trouble.

The Lieut.-Governor's and El Padre cups were lost to the association, having both become the property of Pte. A. Gillies, 90th Batt., he having won them twice.

The only cups now in the hands of the association are the Patron's, the late Hon. J. Cauchon's, the Association's, Hon. Hudson Bay's, and Major Jarvis'.

The success of the meeting is very much due to the very liberal support and encouragement given to the association by their patron, Sir Donald A. Smith, also to the Provincial Government, City Council, Hon. Hudson's Bay Company, the Lieut.-Governor, and many of the private citizens of Winnipeg, to all of whom the council tenders their acknowledgements and thanks.

Before concluding their report the council wish to express their regret at the death of G. B. Spencer, Esq., one of the first presidents of the association.

J. Wrigley, Pres., T. J. E. Scoones, Treas., Geo. W. Street, Sec'y.  
January, 1887.

From the financial statement appended to the report, we find that the assets of the association amount to \$1,300, including four challenge cups valued at \$600, while there are only \$47 of liabilities. In the statement of receipts we find the handsome sum of \$1,509.03 in donations and grants, including \$500 from the Dominion and \$250 from the Provincial government, and \$150 from the city, the balance being from private friends. Annual subscriptions aggregated \$294.50, and affiliation fees \$45, this representing nine associations. The sum of \$472 for entrance fees was the only other considerable receipt. Amongst the expenses are \$135 for printing, \$434 for range expenses, and \$170 for back liabilities cleared off. The prizes given in cash aggregated \$1,473.13. The association starts the new year with a balance of \$188 on hand, and as, presumably, many preliminary expenses are not likely to recur, and as there are no arrears of liabilities to meet, the prospects are that the association through the coming season will be even more prosperous than last year.

### Contents of our Contemporaries.

The Boston *Rifle* for February has just been received, and seems to continue improving every month. The crack shot sketched this month is Mr. J. T. Rabbeth, of Boston, whose fame is international. His position, off-hand, is left handed, the rifle supported on the tips of the fingers, and the elbow on the hip. Sir Henry Halford has communicated a score of 48 bull's eyes out of 50 shots made at 1,000 yards by Mr. Gibbs with a Metford, as an argument presumably in favor of that system

of grooving. The questions of express bullets and telescope sights are again discussed. The result of the Bullard prize team competition is announced, the Mass. R. A. taking first prize. *Franc tireur* sends from England another interesting letter, and many scores and communications complete the number.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the *Army and Navy Journal*, N. Y., for the 5th instant.

The English weeklies for the 22nd January are not yet to hand. The winter communications make their arrival rather irregular.

### Mounted Infantry.\*

BY COL. H. B. HANNA.

"The comparative merits, as regards efficiency as mounted riflemen, of dismounted cavalry and mounted infantry must be held, from present experience, to be much in favor of mounted infantry."—Col. C. F. Clery.

A PAPER entitled "Notes on Dismounted Cavalry v. Mounted Infantry" was some time ago contributed to the *Journal of the United Service Institution of India*.

The author of those notes shows throughout his paper a strong and unreasonable prejudice to mounted infantry, and quite ignored the important and valuable service mounted infantry rendered during the late Afghan war, and in the more recent campaigns in Egypt and the Soudan. The author summed up his notes in terms which, I think, clearly show that he failed to understand the purpose for which mounted infantry is raised, its organisation, and its functions in the field. He said: "The idea of mounted infantry is undoubtedly a taking one, and will probably gather many supporters, but in the humble opinion of the writer it is a 'myth' founded on an exaggerated idea of the power of such a force to act as infantry at all, and a want of appreciation of what cavalry should, and could, do if properly trained, armed, equipped and clothed." Now the subject is of such importance that the assertion that mounted infantry is a "myth" should not, I think, be allowed to pass unchallenged, and in this paper I shall endeavor to show for what purpose, and under what circumstances, mounted infantry should be raised; and farther on I shall enter more fully into the question of its organisation, equipment, training, and duties. In discussing this question we should never lose sight of the fact that mounted infantry has been, and always will be, only an adjunct to infantry, or a supplement to cavalry; and it therefore follows that mounted infantry should, as a rule, be supported by either one branch of the service or the other, more especially when the enemy is known to possess a powerful and well-organised cavalry, because it is quite clear that mounted infantry could never hope to cope against infantry single-handed, encumbered as they must necessarily be with their ponies, while to attempt to act alone against good cavalry would be utter madness, and would in all probability end in the mounted infantry being either captured or totally annihilated. The nature of the ground, however, would in some cases diminish the risk, indeed, in a close and hilly country the speed and activity of the ponies and the superior accuracy of the rifle fire would make mounted infantry a very formidable antagonist to cavalry.

Mounted infantry should not be raised before hostilities had commenced, or, at least, were imminent; and, under some circumstances, it might even be deemed advisable to delay its embodiment until a more advanced period of the campaign, when its services might be more needed than in the earlier stages of the war. This was the case in Afghanistan. The mounted infantry was not organised and put into the field until after the occupation of Cabul. But, nevertheless, it should, I think, be embodied as soon as war was declared, for even in the earlier periods of the war its services would be very valuable, and the additional time gained for training and equipping both officers and men is of such importance that it should decide the question in favor of immediate embodiment. The nature of the country, the organisation and strength of the enemy's would, of course, in some measure also be a guide as to the propriety of the step. If we were weak in cavalry, or the enemy were very strong in that arm, no delay should occur in raising the corps.

The question, however, is one of such importance that before quitting it I will give a few examples to show how quickly mounted infantry may be organised and put into the field when time presses. Lieut.-Col. Carrington, C.M.G., tells us that in the expedition to the diamond fields in 1875 the men of the 1st Bn. 24th Regt., who formed the mounted infantry, were mounted the first day after the horses were purchased (most of them unbroken) and were taught and rendered efficient on the line of march. At the annexation of the Transvaal in 1877 the men of the Buffs and 24th Regt. proceeded on the march to Pretoria about eleven days after the horses (very few of which were broken) were procured. Col. Bray states that in the 4th Regt. 75 horses and men were trained for mounted infantry in six weeks. Again, under many disadvantages during the Mutiny, the present Sir Havelock-Allan trained in a

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