

MUSKETRY.

CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

THIS circular has been sent to all interested. Officers and men everywhere should make an effort to organize teams. Even if they are not rifle shots themselves it is their duty to see that their units have an opportunity of competing. There were 125 teams entered last year:

MONTREAL, March 5, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to say that the League matches for 1896 will be fired on the 16th and 30th May, and the 13th and 27th June.

It has been decided to continue the Snider series for this season, but I hope that this will be the last year that the Snider rifle will be shot in the League matches. There will, therefore, again be three separate series, viz.: 1st, Martini, Martini-Metford, or Lee-Metford (range 200, 500 and 600 yards); 2nd, Snider (ranges 200, 400 and 500 yards); 3rd, Snider Carbine (ranges 200, 300 and 400 yards).

Teams to consist of ten men. Entrance fee, \$10 per team; but where more than one team from the same organization enters, \$10 for the first team, and \$5 for each additional team.

Entries, accompanied by fees, must be made to Capt. G. W. Cameron, treasurer, P.O. Box 267, Montreal, not later than April 15th, stating which series such entry is for.

Prize lists and score sheets and all necessary information for conducting the matches will be sent on receipt of entries.

The Department of Militia and Defence will issue free ammunition for these matches.

Arrangements have been made with the Canadian Pacific Telegraph Co. for telegraphing the results of matches, and the charge for such service will be paid by the League.

Immediately after each match the team number (if more than one team is competing), rifle and team total must be telegraphed to the secretary of the League (via C.P.R. Telegraph Co.), for example, "90th Batt., first team, Martini, 946." and a complete list will at once be telegraphed to all morning newspapers (they will, of course, not be ready in time for the evening papers of that day) at the following points: Victoria and Vancouver, B.C., Winnipeg, Man., London, Toronto and Ottawa, Ont., Montreal and Quebec, P.Q., St. John, N.B., and Halifax, N.S., and the official score will be published in the next issue of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, a copy of which will be sent to each captain of team. Captains of teams not telegraphing scores will be omitted from the list and will not receive THE MILITARY GAZETTE with official scores.

There is no doubt that the action of the Department of Militia and Defence in grant-

ing free ammunition to the League has greatly improved the shooting of the entire force. The Council, therefore, strongly urge upon all commanding officers and presidents of rifle associations that they should make arrangements for at least one team entry from each battalion to the League matches for 1896.

I hope, therefore, that you will give this matter your serious consideration, and that your battalion (association) will be represented this season.

Your obedient servant,

W. M. ANDREWS,

Capt. 6th Fus., Sec. C.M.R.L.

P.S. Should the person addressed not be the secretary of this association this year, he will confer a favor by forwarding to that officer. Score sheets and all necessary information for conducting the matches will be sent on receipt of entries.

A MILITARY RESERVE.

THERE are persons who say that the militia has no *raison d'être*, and that consequently the expenditure on that account is so much money wasted; who scoff at our gallant citizen soldiers as well-meaning but misguided enthusiasts, whose vanity is largely responsible for their devotion to soldiering. Such persons look upon patriotism as a form of bombastic selfishness, and upon patriots as self-seeking and noisy nuisances. To all such the outburst of patriotic utterances throughout the Empire must have been a rude shock. There was no mistaking the genuineness and reality of the sentiment. From Australia, Canada and the Cape came the message of fraternity and federation, the unanimous resolve to stand by the Empire to the death. Yet how are we in Canada to do so if our only force—the militia—is starved and stunted? If the militia is a necessity to our national welfare, so also is an increased expenditure to make it efficient. That the Government have announced they intend to make. While the necessity for an efficient force must be admitted, would it not be well to provide for a rainy day by creating a reserve that is available quickly; that is, a trained force, a tangible reserve? Under our present law nominally every man who is not in the active militia is in the reserve. Provision is made in the Act for the appointment of a lieutenant-colonel and two majors to each regimental reserve district. But the law is a dead-letter. If trouble should come upon us we should have immediately available for service a few city battalions, and in a short time a considerable number of rural corps. After that, should more men be required we should have to send the recruiting sergeant around, or put the ballot clauses in operation. We have at the present time no reserve that is really available, and, what is worse, we have no idea of the existence or whereabouts of the young men who are trained in the active militia each year, and who, either through the completion of their engagements or for other causes, leave the colors and disappear in private life. There is reason to believe that the number of men who, for the reasons mentioned, leave the Queen's Own yearly is about three hundred, and a somewhat smaller number from the Grenadiers and Highlanders. Is it

not a waste, after the men have given their time, and the country its money, to allow these trained and efficient soldiers to be lost? Would it not be rather a mere matter of common sense to draft them into a reserve force of one or two battalions for each corps? At that rate the Queen's Own would have a reserve in five years of fifteen hundred trained men, and other regiments in proportion, supposing the term of reserve service to be made five years. Or, after three years' service in the active militia the soldier might pass two or three years in a first reserve and two more in a second. The officers would be dealt with in a similar manner. Besides having a trained force always available to supplement the active militia, good would be done by keeping up an interest in the force among those who have served the country well and faithfully. It would seem that such measures should be taken to prevent the waste of trained and efficient men by the creation of a readily available militia reserve.—Mail and Empire.

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