

teries, who were enabled to send detachments for practice with rifled guns, the other outlying batteries are generally only efficient in a moderate degree as infantry, with an elementary knowledge of gun drill, acquired by drilling with an obsolete smoothbore gun, which generally forms their only armament, and until the garrison artillery can be organized at or near the most important defensive positions where they can have the opportunity of practising with modern and serviceable equipments, their efficiency must be limited to that which can be acquired as infantry only." This states the case pretty plainly, but we are not aware that anything has been done in the interval since that report was published to remedy matters. There must be a huge collection of old useless smoothbores lying about the country, and if these were sold the proceeds would do something towards providing 40-pr. rifled pieces of position for our garrison batteries to drill and practise with. The artillery deserves well of the Dominion, and we hope something will be done to help them increase their efficiency.

**I**N our correspondence columns will be found an interesting letter pleading the cause of the smallbore—that is of the distinctive match rifle as contrasted with the military weapon. While admitting that the smallbore shots have done good work in teaching accuracy to military shots, we think they can teach them nothing more now and have consequently served their turn. The fact that interest in this class of shooting has diminished both in the United States and England, as well as here, would seem to disprove our correspondent's claim that its disfavor here was the work of any clique, and the fact that last year the Martini military rifle and match rifle were used side by side in the D.R.A. matches is another argument, according to our lights, to prove that the time has come to abolish any distinctively "smallbore" match from its programme.

**T**HE annually published militia list, corrected up to the 1st January last, has just appeared. It is of course like its predecessors in general make up, the most apparent change being the prefixing of the letters N.W. to the names of those who served in the campaign of 1885. Last year we presented in tabular form the state of our force as respects officers, taken from the list, and in a couple of weeks we propose to do the same with this year's list, so as to give an idea of the work being done by the schools in the direction of making the officers efficient.

**A** MEETING of the Executive Committee of the D.R.A. was held on Thursday last, when Lieut.-Col. White, chairman, Col. Panet, Lieut.-Cols. Bacon, secretary, Macpherson, treasurer, and Macdonald, Majors Perley, Blaiklock and Anderson and Captain Toller were present. Some business in connection with this year's Wimbledon team was settled, and it was decided to prepare a draft programme for the forthcoming prize meeting, so as to facilitate the work of the new council, as it will be so late in the season before they are elected that it would rather rush the work to leave it all until after the annual meeting.

**C**OLONEL WHITE'S report of his experiments on the resistance of snow to bullets will be read with interest, and as it appears to conflict somewhat with the results previously recorded, it would seem desirable that still further experiments should be made both with Snider and Martini, with a view to arriving at some unquestioned result. The Martini with its smallbore and great velocity should show much better penetrative powers than were obtained with the Snider. We shall be glad to publish reports of carefully conducted and accurately recorded experiments made by any of our readers.

**N**OTHING has yet been done by Canada in the way of organizing its marine militia, which consists of sailors and men whose usual occupation is upon any steam or sailing craft navigating the waters of the

Dominion, and it is doubtful if any useful system can be created at present for properly training the rank and file of this branch of the service. They, however, form an important factor in considerations relating to defence, even without definite information as to their number. No recent official enumeration has been taken, but it is known that 7,315 vessels, measuring 1,231,000 tons, were upon the Canadian register in 1885, and that of these, 1,177 vessels, measuring 48,728 tons, were employed in the fisheries, also that 59,493 men were engaged in the latter service that year. The number of men employed on vessels in the merchant service not engaged in fishing must, therefore, add considerably to the total of marine militiamen. These men are, in the pursuit of their callings, extending commerce, developing the fisheries, thereby increasing the public wealth, and are in this manner taking their share in preparations for defence, inasmuch as their knowledge of the coasts and inland waters is constantly increasing. Their nautical training is of a nature suitable for purposes of navigation and transport by water, and it paves the way for an easy acquirement of other useful technical knowledge.

**W**HAT seems to be needed to start with is a training ship or school, or both, in which young men could be technically and scientifically educated for the militia marine service in a manner similar, allowing for differences in occupation, to that followed by young men now being educated in the Royal Military College at Kingston for the active militia land force. This plan would require a school on land and a small armed vessel in which periodical cruises could be made for practical instruction in navigation, and the use of guns. Such a course of training would insure a supply of capable officers who could utilize and direct any future organization of the seafaring portion of the population for defensive purposes, either in aid of the Imperial navy or for purely Canadian purposes, as circumstances might require. The cost of such a training school, if a suitable sized vessel is secured, would not add materially to the present expenditure for the militia, which only costs about 26½ cents per capita of the population annually, but it would be a great step in advance from a defence standpoint, and it would gradually grow into a service which would not only reflect credit upon the country, but would be likely to save a more serious outlay, and loss in the future, should an enemy make an attack upon any portion of our extensive coast. Every cadet so trained and educated could be temporarily absorbed with profit into the merchant marine service, and would thereafter make a useful officer to draw upon whenever his services might be required for the public purposes of the Dominion.

#### Personal.

Sir Fred. Middleton is confined to his house by a cold.

Capt. Sam Hughes, 45th, proprietor and editor of the *Victoria Warder*, is mad just now. Some friend of the *Warder* saturated the whole printing establishment with petroleum last week and set fire to the place. Luckily the attempt was discovered sufficiently soon to save the building, but the ill will was plainly manifest. There is enough of the fighter in our friend to make him rather relish the situation, and the *Warder* comes out strong on the subject. Captain Hughes has our sympathy and that of every one who likes plain speaking.

#### Recent Deaths.

Captain William Fairbairn, of Wakefield, P.Q., who commanded No. 3 company of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, died early this month, falling a victim to pulmonary consumption after nearly two years' illness, though until near the end he was able to go about. He was a good type of rural officer, esteemed alike by his fellow officers and by the men under his command, and the news of his death was received with genuine regret by all his Ottawa fellows-in-arms. He had been in the ranks of the company for many years, and, being color-sergeant when Captain Wright was transferred to No. 2 in March, 1884, was commissioned captain provisionally, qualifying the next year at Ottawa before a