

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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TO CORRESPONDENTS:

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us, confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that may reach us in time for publication.

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The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1888.

THE late great rifle prize meeting at Wimbledon has, we are glad to see, been the most successful of any yet held. The "Volunteer Service Gazette" contains full reports of all the matches, with some excellent comments. It says:—"Each year makes better shooting necessary if first prizes are sought for, and better shooting implies greater attention, increased application and sounder nerves. . . . It (the National Rifle Association) started with the laudable object of giving permanence to Volunteer corps and of promoting rifle-shooting throughout Great Britain. Who can say that the first of these has not in all probability been attained? while as to the second, though perhaps the less important object, we have

ample proof that, whereas a few years ago rifle shooting was never heard of except among the Army or sportsmen, it is now a favorite national pastime, and the increasing skill displayed is amply testified by the necessity, year after year, of decreasing the size of the mark to be hit in order to ascertain the most skilled marksmen."

The above sentences express so well the idea which we have often sought to convey in these columns that in transcribing them, we merely repeat proofs of arguments we have so often advanced and urged. But there is this difference, that while the people of England were comparative "strangers to the use of the rifle, the people of Canada have in it the constant and familiar associate of many happy and perchance adventurous years. But our principal object in making the above quotation was to show that rifle competition must necessarily be connected with the volunteer force, for as in its ranks are to be found the most sturdy upholders of our nationality as also in its ranks are the best riflemen and most enthusiastic citizens. It is from the volunteers principally that the Dominion Rifle Association expects its greatest support, to them they look for that backing-up which is necessary to make them successful, and to them they point their appeals. Understanding this, we are glad to observe, the Council has given a large proportion of their prizes to be competed for by volunteers, and we have no doubt but large numbers will avail themselves of the advantages offered.

In view of the immense numbers who will visit the grounds of the Association during the matches, we would point out to the Council the necessity of making some provision, similar to that made at Wimbledon, for the accommodation of competitors. The idea of producing in Canada a national meeting like that held in England annually must be carefully upheld at this first attempt, so that each future gathering may be looked forward to as the great event among volunteers and those interested in rifle shooting. Make the first a success and the following will be sure to succeed.

Take this description, from the paper before quoted, of what the National Rifle Association of England has made of their meeting and one can form an idea of the immense importance of this subject:—

"It is really necessary to visit Wimbledon to be able to form an idea of the vastness of the plan of the Association Prize Meeting. The miles of fences, the tramway, the butts and ranges, the markers, the soldiers and police, the commissariat arrangements, and the contents of the Exhibition Tent, have so often been subjects for laudable comment that we refrain from doing more than mentioning that a peep at the different parts of the Camp enables us to say that the volunteers and others who attend the Prize Meeting will find the same admirable system at work as has worked so well formerly. Experience has worked wonders, and, immense as the Camp is, and multifarious as are the

little things requisite to make all work well, there is now no fear of anything having been forgotten. Each department has its head, and where "two heads are better than one" there the necessary amalgamation will be found."

The Dominion Rifle Association meeting is being looked forward to as the great event of the season, and we cordially wish that it may be all its promoters desire. The Council has among its members some excellent working men, and the Secretary is one who from his position and experience is well adapted to carry out the intentions of the Association. We wish them all success and look forward to a pleasant time at Chambly.

We would recommend to the consideration of the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association, the propriety of establishing a Ladies' Club at their forthcoming prize meeting, similar to that established at Wimbledon. It is unnecessary for us to point out how much they are and will be indebted to the Ladies for the success of their first great tournament, and they should make every possible provision to entertain their fair and patriotic patronesses in becoming style. *Verb. sap.*

SINCE the discovery of the American Continent by Columbus, it has never at one time been the theatre of such ominous events as at the present day. From Terra Del Fuego to the ice bound regions of the North Pole, wherever man has placed his footsteps, we hear of nothing but wars and rumors of wars. The whole world is undergoing a revolution,—a mighty change is transpiring amongst its inhabitants such as was never before witnessed. Countries hitherto inaccessible to civilized nations, guarded either by their natural sterility or by jealousy of their barbarous inhabitants are being opened up before the resistless enterprise of the nineteenth century. While the progress of civilization is convulsing Japan, China and the interior of Asia,—while those vast changes for the better are being written in blood, and the old world shudders at the sight, America is also witnessing a revolution on a grander scale. It is a war for supremacy between ignorance and brute force on the one hand, and enlightenment and science on the other. How the contest will end must be apparent to all; but the friends of civilization have many a hard battle before them in the field as well as in the cabinet ere they gain the victory. The Spanish American colonies of South America have never enjoyed a lasting peace since the discovery of the continent submitted it to the rule of the Spaniard. There has ever been a fever of revolution, sometimes more violent than at others, and sometimes, but not often, slumbering, but never dead. It courses through veins of society and protrates the strength of the South American nations. Central America, Mexico and the West India Islands have been equally bad,