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

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Topics of the Week.

An interesting letter on the subject of the Bremner fur case appears in the Toronto *Mail* of Saturday last, from the pen of Mr. G. Mercer Adam, who, as a historian of the rebellion, has given deep attention to all matters connected with it, and is therefore in a position to treat intelligently of his subject. The letter throughout is a rebuke of the harsh criticism passed upon General Middleton in this connection, and it thus concludes: "On the slender support there is for the charge, it is cruel to impugn the General's honour, and malicious to hint, as has been done, that his should be the last appointment of an English officer to command the Canadian militia. While Canada remains a colony of Britain, we shall but respect ourselves by honouring the source, while we take the advantage, of these appointments. Nor, as men of honour ourselves, should we seek to sully our own fame, and besmirch our own nests. I can imagine no officer or man of the force, at least, joining in the outcry against its honoured chief. Of late there has been a tendency to belittle the feats and detract from the triumphs of the North-West rebellion. If the story of the insurrection, and the part the Canadian regulars and militia played in its suppression, is not worthy of the glory claimed for it, let us at least speak with respect of the soldier-graves on the Saskatchewan, and leave us still our poor illusions."

We have much pleasure in announcing that, in response to the request preferred as stated elsewhere in this paper, the Government will issue, free of charge, the ammunition required for the matches of the Canadian Military Rifle League. Those interested in rifle shooting have reason to be grateful to the Minister of Militia for this handsome contribution towards the success of the League; and also, in no small degree to Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, M.P., who actively interested himself in having the request presented to Sir Adolphe Caron in the most favourable light. Col. O'Brien took an active part in establishing the League, and the corps which he commands, the 35th Battalion, promptly entered two teams for the competition.

The Dominion Rifle Association.

The executive of the Dominion Rifle Association met at Ottawa on Tuesday, 6th inst., to consider the programme and for other business. There were present Lt.-Col. White, Chairman; Lt.-Cols. John Macpherson, Macdonald, Anderson, and Tilton, of Ottawa; Major Bond, Major Blaiklock and Capt. Hood, of Montreal, and the Secretary, Lt.-Col. Bacon.

The changes made recently in the firing rules of the National Rifle Association were discussed, and it was decided to adopt for the Dominion meeting this year the permission to use the back position at ranges of six hundred yards and upwards. With respect to the one sighting shot at each range to be permitted by the N. R. A. it was decided after lengthy discussion not to adopt this change.

To give additional accommodation required by the increased attendance of competitors, it was decided to add eight targets, those at present in use to be placed closer where practicable, and the additional space required to be taken on the right of the present targets. The firing points at 600 yards will be made continuous by filling in the gully behind the range keeper's residence. It was decided to adopt the N. R. A. system of firing by threes instead of by pairs, thus making it easier to carry out the programme within the stipulated time, and as well giving the individual competitors greater leisure between shots. The three competitors will now be required to fire their seven shots each within twenty minutes, whereas hitherto fifteen minutes have been allowed for a pair. The targets will be arranged in groups on the Wimbledon plan.

The matches will commence on Monday, 1st September, and will terminate on the Friday following. It is proposed to again have a public presentation on Thursday evening, the inauguration of this system last fall having resulted satisfactorily.

The programme and prize list will be much the same as that of last year, though there will be a few variations, and the money offered will be slightly increased, now amounting to close on \$7,500. The Nursery match will be open only to those competitors who have not at any previous prize meeting of the Association won a prize of \$8. or upwards, in place of \$10 as heretofore. This is intended to effect the retirement of a number of rather senior nursery shots. In the Minister of Militia match there will be eight in place of six team prizes, the number of team entries having largely increased. The Rideau and Ouimet matches, last year 7 shots each at 600 yards with the Martini, are to be changed. They will still be Martini matches, but one will be seven shots at 500 yards, and the other ten shots at 600 yards. In the Grand Aggregate fifteen prizes are to be added, so that there will be seventy-five in place of sixty prizes. In the Governor General's match, the first hundred in the Grand Aggregate will be allowed to compete, in place of the first sixty as heretofore. The matter of increasing the shooting test for places on the representative Canadian twenty was discussed, but no change was decided upon. The extra series matches were also discussed at length, but no material change was agreed to.