

**THE ADJUTANCY OF THE BISLEY TEAM.**

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Referring to your editorial in THE MILITARY GAZETTE of October 15, "The Bisley Team of 1897": While there is considerable force in your statement that the man who best deserves the position of adjutant of next year's team should be asked to take it, the officer of the R.C.A. referred to has a great many friends, and is a credit to the permanent force. Nevertheless, in my opinion the claim of Major Dunbar, of the 8th Royal Rifles, far outweighs those of the officer in question. The 8th has always been to the front in shooting, and is entitled to receive the reward for persistent attention to this important branch of the duties of a soldier. The Bisley Team of 1897 in Capt. Davidson and Lieut. Davidson has two representatives from the 8th.

The officer of the permanent force is an artilleryman, and it would appear more fitting that he should take his turn as adjutant of the next artillery team crossing to the Mother Country, and that the command and adjutancy of the Bisley Team should be considered an acknowledgment of service rendered in the cause of rifle shooting, always taking into consideration the qualification of the applicant.

Yours truly,

X.

Montreal, Oct. 28, 1896.

**A WORK WORTH ENCOURAGING.**

The following is the letter referred to in last issue of THE GAZETTE, but which with much other matter was crowded out:

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—The Women's Christian Temperance Union have a department of "Work Among Soldiers." Their object and aim is to add to the comfort and profit of the corps at camp drill and rifle range and other outings, that we may combine with the excellent training they receive, the influence for "God and home and native land." We would like to provide a reading and writing tent at every encampment, but very often we do not know of the time and place in time to arrange for same. Knowing the men have many leisure hours, we are always pleased to send literature, and where possible to provide a tent where hot coffee and tea can be served at the early morning drill.

We have been so kindly received by some of the officers that I venture to suggest through your interesting paper that they further aid us in our effort to broaden and beautify the lives of our fathers, husbands, brothers and our country's brave defenders by sending us from time to time information re the movements of the militia and how best we can help them. Hoping you will kindly favor us by giving my letter space in your paper.

Yours truly,

J. P. STARR,

W.C.T.U. Prov. Supt. Soldiers' Dept.

Toronto, Oct. 14, 1896.

**PRACTICAL FIRE TACTICS.**

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—The competition which took place recently at Toronto, when eight teams, composed of 1 officer, 1 sergeant and 10 rank and file, drawn from infantry corps in No. 2 Military District, marched from the city to the rifle ranges, distant about eight miles, and fired 16 volleys at distances between 600 and 250 yards, marked the introduction of a scheme of practical rifle shooting under service conditions, which, if adopted generally by the militia, would help to increase the efficiency of officers and men.

Hitherto our battalions have had little or no training in practical fire tactics to fit them to take the field, but with competitions of the nature instituted by Lieut.-Col. Otter, commanding No. 2 Military District, the men would be instructed in fire-discipline and the officers and non-commissioned officers would be taught how to control and direct the fire. It is important that officers themselves should know how to use the rifle, for although they would not have to fire in action, yet no officer can be considered qualified to act as a leader unless he knows the range and power of the rifle.

Target practice in the ordinary sense of the term is all very well for teaching a recruit the use and power of his rifle, but it is no training for the field, and the sooner this is recognized by those who control our military affairs and rifle associations the better it will be for the country. It would be well if rifle associations were to reduce the number of "pot hunter competitions," and in every possible way encourage shooting under service conditions, such as firing at moving and vanishing targets, rapid firing with time allowance, skirmishing, etc. If the Government could be induced to grant a

small sum of money to each military district, corps and rifle association, to be expended upon competitions of the nature above indicated, the increase of efficiency which such a scheme would be certain to effect throughout all ranks of the militia, would more than compensate the country for any expenditure under this head. In addition, the defensive resources of the Dominion would be materially increased by an accession of new members to the rifle associations, who would be induced to join, not from the hope of gain, but on account of being able to take part in the pleasant pastime of a rifle contest at little or no cost to themselves. At present, in order to become a good shot, one is put to considerable expense, but with a Government grant, all charges under the head of markers, targets, ammunition, etc., would be defrayed from that fund.

In return, the effective members of rifle associations would be capable of rendering good service should the country require their help.

Yours obediently,

J.R.

**A CAVALRY ASSOCIATION.**

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—In your last issue you say there is a movement in progress to organize a cavalry association. For one, I am very glad to hear of such an association being again spoken of, and admit its necessity to this branch of the service, but many of your readers will infer from the item of news which I refer to that this is the first effort on the part of cavalry officers to attempt anything of the kind.

Some two or three years ago a cavalry association was regularly formed and a large number of cavalry officers joined it. Meetings were held, officers chosen, and everything seemed to be on a good footing. However, very soon those who had joined were surprised to receive a printed circular from the secretary stating that the new association would not be authorized, and thus ended the cavalry association.

Not having become a member I do not know the particulars of its short life, and now simply wish to give what little credit there may be to those who tried to do what they could to help their branch of the militia.

Yours, etc.,

F. C. FLEMING, captain G.G.B.G.

Toronto, Oct. 26.

**CAPT. COLLINS' GREAT SCORE.**

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—In your issue of the 15th inst. I see a letter signed "G. G." in reference to a prize won by me in Ottawa. I may state that I never claimed to have made the score he states. For his information I give you the particulars of the match, which can be found in the D.R.A. report of 1883, or ought to be. I take particulars from my own score-book. At 1883 D.R.A. meeting a notice was given out that Lord Lorne, Governor-General, had offered a prize of \$50 for the provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, in all \$150, to be shot for by the members of a team representing the province. I was that year on the Manitoba team and fired with the other members of the team for the prize. The conditions of the prize were: The highest individual score to be winner of the prize; range, 200 yards; Snider rifle; 7 rounds; position, standing, in heavy marching order. The score made by me was as follows: 4, 5, 3, 4, 5, 4, 5—30 points. And, if I remember aright, the next highest was 28. I was handed the prize by Sir A. P. Caron, then Minister of Militia, who told me he was representing the Governor-General. I also won other prizes at the D.R.A. meeting of that year. If I thought it necessary, I could give you the names of many officers who were then present and saw me win the match and receive the prize.

Yours, etc.,

W. ANDREWS COLLINS, Capt.,

Oct. 28, 1896.

2nd R. C. A.

**MAIL CONTRACT.**

Sealed Tenders, addressed to the Postmaster-General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on FRIDAY, 20th November, 1896, for the mail service in connection with the Street Letter Boxes, Newspaper Boxes, Letter Carriers' Depots and Branch Post Offices, in the City of Montreal.

from the 1st JANUARY next, on a proposed contract for four years.

The conveyance to be made in suitable vehicles, subject to approval of Postmaster-General.

Bond will be required two responsible sureties bound jointly and severally with the Contractor for \$5,000.

Information as to conditions of proposed contract and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Postoffice of Montreal, or at the Office of the Postoffice Inspector.

J. W. BAIN,

Postoffice Inspector.

Postoffice Inspector's Office, Montreal, 16th October, 1896.