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Topics of the Week.

We desire to call the attention of artillerymen especially to the interesting official report, noted elsewhere in this issue, of the commandant of this year's artillery camp at Shoeburyness. Some hints applicable to the Dominion meetings may perhaps be gleaned therefrom.

The cadet training movement has taken a great hold on Montreal, there being no less than nine hundred and thirty boys in the six classes. Four of these are in connection with the high schools, and the other two are classes organized by Capt. Lydon, of the Fifth Royal Scots, and by Major Atkinson, of the Garrison Artillery. Capt. Lydon's boys will wear kilts. The cadet classes are very popular with the parents on account of the physical benefits resulting to the boys from the drill; and every young man who serves a term in the militia is similarly benefited physically.

Capt. St. John Mildmay, having, through ill-health, resigned the office of Secretary of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain, Mr. A. P. Humphrey, until lately the Lieut.-Colonel commanding the Cambridge Volunteers, has been appointed as his successor. Mr. Humphrey has served as executive officer of the Association, and is spoken of as eminently well qualified for the Secretaryship. He is well known as a first class rifleman, and will thus possess indispensable practical knowledge. A movement is on foot to present to Capt. St. John Mildmay a fitting testimonial in recognition of his long and valuable services to the Association.

The Toronto Rifle Range.

There is disaster impending for Toronto riflemen, should the long talked of scheme for closing the Garrison Common range be carried out. At no time has the prospect of the Exhibition Association of securing the property looked brighter than at present, when the scheme is being vigorously urged with scarce a word of protest in the Toronto press, save by an occasional anonymous contribution to the correspondence columns. A Hamilton paper says its Toronto contemporaries are dumb because "they imbibe the exhibition pap," but this is surely a libel on the press of the Queen City. Probably their silence is the result of the assurance made, that only let the Exhibition Association have authority over the Common, and they will put it in such condition that it will be of more use than ever to the volunteers for drill and parade purposes, and only closed against them during the period of the annual fair. As for the riflemen, it is said that just as good a range will be secured for them elsewhere. True, it will be many miles distant, but what difference, it is asked, do a few miles more or less make in a rail journey?

The answer is, that to remove the range away from the city, will add to the heavy expense already necessarily incurred by the riflemen; and will occasion a serious loss of time, which means money, to such of them as are not altogether deterred from practice by the change. It seems that the Exhibition Association covet Garrison Common mainly because it is Government property, and therefore may be had at small cost. There is plenty of land available on the other side of their grounds, but it is probably expensive. An extension of some kind is necessary. In considering the Association's application for Garrison Common the Government have to determine whether this extension shall be made at the expense of a wealthy commercial institution, or at the expense of those young men of the militia force laudably anxious to instruct themselves in the use of their weapons; at the expense of the Government in annually transporting the city regiments many miles to perform their class firing; and at the further sacrifice of depriving the military schools of their rifle range. While Great Britain is at enormous expense equipping her defenders with arms of precision, requiring with each successive improvement in the weapon greater skill in its use, is Canada content to deprive the militiamen at such an important centre as Toronto of the means of convenient practice? which until now they have enjoyed, thanks to the generosity of the Imperial Government in presenting it.

Should anyone doubt that the interests of rifle shooting in Toronto would suffer by the closing of the Garrison Common ranges, let him ask the Montreal riflemen for their experience since driven from Point St. Charles. It will be found to be anything but a happy one. The Toronto militia are a numerous and influential body. Let them as citizens join in a protest against the proposed spoliation of their preserves. The government have a deep interest in maintaining the efficiency of the Militia; they are under no obligation to the Exhibition Association, and if the militiamen handle their case properly they are bound to win.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE PROPOSED EFFICIENCY COMPETITION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Allow me to congratulate you on your suggestion that the Canadian infantry should get up efficiency competitions similar to that apparently so popular with the artillery. Croakers to the contrary notwithstanding, the Canadian militia make steady progress, and I think the time has now arrived when there are corps enough taking pride in superior accomplishments to make such a competition a success as a Dominion affair. We down here never get a chance to show side by side with the corps of the big cities of Ontario and Quebec, except, of course, in the friendly columns of your bright little paper (Long life to it!), and since we cannot have other than these paper parades together, we would like the comparison to be more sharply defined, as it would be by the figures of a general efficiency competition. General Sir Fred Middleton now inspects nearly all the city corps annually, and I am sure that he would visit and give points to all those entered in such a competition were he requested to do so. We would thus secure an impartial verdict, from the best qualified judge.

BLUENOSE.

Halifax, 28th October, 1889.