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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

THE DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME.
THE MILITIA PASTIME.
Only practice makes perfect—*Rifle Shot*.
Let swagger yield to efficiency—*Canadian*
Thomas Atkins.
The shooting powers of the permanent corps—
Major J. Peters.
Rifle practice of the rank and file—*Cuidich'n*
Righ.
Ottawa Rifle Club competition.

MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.
CORRESPONDENCE.
Who should wear dress spurs—*M*.
Staff uniform—*Drag-robe*.
Slovenliness off parade—*Mars*.
The "no range" muddle in Montreal—*H. A.*
Brocklesby.
Canadian ammunition—*Dropshot*.
MODERN TACTICS (Con.)—*Capt. H. R. Gall*.
MISCELLANEOUS.

The Dominion Rifle Association Programme.

AT a meeting held in this city last Friday evening, the special committee of the Dominion Rifle Association agreed upon a programme for the annual competition to be held on the Rideau range commencing Monday 3rd September next. Several important departures have been made from the lines followed in previous years, and these are such as must meet with the approval of the great body of competitors.

In the first place the lottery element has been eliminated by doing away with Snider shooting at distances greater than five hundred yards, a solitary exception being made in the case of the Macdougall match, the conditions of which involve five shots with the Snider at six hundred yards, but having been fixed by the donor of the cup cannot be changed at the will of the association. The Dominion of Canada match will be fired at the same ranges as usual, but while the Snider rifle will be used at two and five hundred yards, the Martini will be substituted at six. The Rideau match at six hundred is changed from Snider to Martini. The Minister of Militia's match will be at four and five hundred instead of five and six. In making these variations the committee have given effect to the wishes of the great majority of the competitors, as expressed by them annually for two or three seasons past.

Perhaps the funniest thing in connection with last year's programme was making the Standing match at 200 yards one for the Martini, because there was a standing match at Wimbledon and the Martini was the weapon in use there. This anomaly will not appear in the programme for 1888, the Standing match being Snider.

Last year an important step was taken in the direction of popularising the military team matches, by remodelling the dress regulations so as to nearer approach the conditions of actual service. Now the prizes have been increased in value and number, from five to six in the British Challenge Shield, and two to four in the Gzowski match. And a further important and in our opinion wise change has been made by making it permissible for any corps to enter two teams in the competition for the shield. It is certainly desirable that as many men as possible in each corps should be trained in the practical style of shooting called for in these matches, but without opportunity to compete in the matches there was no incentive for more than half a dozen men in a corps to practise skirmishing.

The same matches are included in the Grand Aggregate this year as last, but owing to the changed conditions of the competitions the determining factors are widely different. There are 21 shots with the Martini, all at 600 yards; and with the Snider 5 shots at 600; 21 at 500 12 at 400 and 14 at 200 yards. A team aggregate competition has been in-

troduced, for the Lansdowne challenge cup, towards the purchase of which the parting gift of His Excellency was applied. The teams will be representative of affiliated associations, and are to consist each of five men, all of whom must have belonged to the association represented before the 1st of July preceding the match. A cash prize of \$40 will accompany the cup, and there are four other prizes offered ranging from \$35 to \$20. The matches whose scores count in this aggregate are the Rideau, Manufacturers, Ouimet, Minister of Militia, and Standing, these being all those of the Grand Aggregate which are open to all comers, military or otherwise.

In the Extra Series the Martini matches remain the same, and it is expected that additional accommodation will be provided so as to make the long range shooting more satisfactory than last year. The Snider extra match at 600 gives place to one at 500, there being thus two Snider extra series matches at the same range. The prizes for these have been increased in number from nineteen to twenty-nine. The total value of this year's cash prize list is \$7,158, an increase of \$520.

To prevent possible misunderstanding, it is announced that the sending of a team to England in 1889 will be dependent upon the action of the National Rifle Association with regard to the annual meeting, and also upon the place selected for the competition.

The Militia Pastime.

Linch-pin has made some good suggestions, but his last (that we should send officers and men to Hythe for instruction) is not one of them. Does he know that the British regular is very little if any better than the Canadian permanent militiaman, as a shot? Of what use are the Hythe instructors to a man who never gets a chance to practise again. There are numbers of officers and non-com. officers in every part of Canada quite capable of training men to shoot accurately. I think to increase the allowance of ammunition to each man is a step in the right direction.

RIFLE SHOT.

Our Toronto correspondent forwards the following interesting letter he has received:—

DEAR LINCH-PIN,—I see you sent my last to the GAZETTE. In criticising it you give me credit for excusing Tommy Atkins' absence from the provincial rifle matches—I said *I had seen him at them*. I did not plead "baccy, beer, and beauty," as an excuse for his insufficiency of funds to take him "pot-hunting" to the capital, but I endeavoured to show that *without* those attractions acting upon his purse, he had far from enough to buy him a return ticket. I think there is *something* in the argument. You and I, dear Linch-pin, agree in the great point—sending Canadians to Hythe, where musketry instruction is reduced to a fine system, and where it is made a speciality of. My only reason for suggesting officers and non-commissioned officers of the permanent corps as the ones to be trained there, was that the knowledge acquired by them could be more generally diffused throughout the militia at large, but your suggestion "goes me one better."

I should be rather sorry to see Canada cease to be represented at the matches between the different parts of the empire at Wimbledon, but if a choice had to be made I should say "knock off swagger and go in for efficiency."

May 16th, 1888.

CANADIAN THOMAS ATKINS.

The Shooting Powers of the Permanent Corps.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I have read with the greatest interest the arguments regarding the shooting powers of the permanent corps, and must endorse the statements of those who say we can't shoot. For such is the case, and the reasons are fully explained in "Canadian Tommy Atkins'" letter in the GAZETTE, May 3rd, also in the exceedingly well written letter of "Feu-de-joie." How can we be expected to, when our yearly allowance is