

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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THE MILITIA MEDICAL OFFICERS.

It is proposed to form an Association of Medical Officers of the Militia of Canada, and as a preliminary a circular has been issued by Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson, Surgeon Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, to the medical officers of the Militia, asking opinions as to the project. The objects of the association are stated as follows:—

1. The bringing of medical officers in closer personal relation, and the development of a departmental *esprit de corps*.
2. For discussion of matters relating to the medical department of the militia.
3. For the discussion of military matters from a medical point of view.
4. For reading of papers on military medicine and surgery, hygiene and equipment.

We are informed that assurances already received leave no room to doubt that the proposed association will be a success from the start. The meeting for organization will be held on the 6th of May, at the Military Institute, Toronto.

THE MILITARY-RIFLE LEAGUE.

Organization having been completed by the appointment of the Secretary and Treasurer, the chief working officers, the programme and regulations for the third season of the League have just been issued.

The circular issued by the new Secretary, Major J. M. Delamere, to accompany the programmes, says:

"The League was organized in 1890 by a few enthusiastic riflemen, with the object of increasing the interest in rifle shooting, of inducing the older shots to coach and instruct the younger, to bring military rifle shooting more prominently before the public and thereby benefit the Militia generally. That it has succeeded

wonderfully may be gathered from the fact that the membership in two years is 1,040, being exactly double that of the first year; and it is confidently hoped that the membership may be further increased to at least 1,500 during 1892.

"The Militia Department have, since the inauguration of the League, done everything possible to help it along, by granting ammunition free to all those taking part, by authorizing the badges to be worn on uniform, and by those in authority taking part in the competition under the name of the Headquarters' Staff Team. It therefore behoves every officer in the Militia to do his best to see that his corps has at least one team taking part in the League competition, and by the close of the season, he will have plenty of proof that its efficiency, as far as rifle shooting is concerned, has been improved. Major-General Herbert, C.B., in his report on the Militia, says 'that the rifle shooting of the whole Militia has been greatly improved through the working of the League.'

"Enclosed you will please find an official score sheet such as are supplied to be used during the matches, and on the back of which are printed the Rules and Regulations governing the competitions. There are a few changes from last year which the experience gained from the two preceding years has made necessary, notable among which is the rate for telegraphing, which, by doing away with unnecessary detail, has been reduced by one half; and the first match is a little later than usual, as certain teams found that they could not obtain the necessary practice before the first match. The League is managed by practical rifle shots who have, and will continue to do everything in their power to further the interests of military rifle shooting, and hope that their endeavours will be appreciated, and that every corps in the Militia will be represented in the League of 1892.

"The entries close 15th May, so please lay this matter before the riflemen of your corps *at once*. Entries to be sent to the Treasurer, A. D. Crooks, 9 Toronto street, Toronto."

The dates and ranges for the five matches, the first of which will be on the

28th inst., may be read in the official advertisement appearing in this issue. In the additions to the regulations there is a clause distinctly prohibiting extra Snider practice on League days, though Martini practice may be carried on. The range officers are requested to exercise a close supervision of the firing, and as an additional safeguard each competitor is required to claim by his signature the score recorded for him on the official score sheet. Provision has also been made for a check upon the markers.

The Militia Department has again come handsomely to the assistance of the League by the promise of free ammunition for all taking part in these matches, and Lt.-Colonel Hon. Mackenzie Bowell has followed the generous example of Sir Adolphe Caron, his predecessor in office as Minister of Militia, by presenting a trophy to be competed for under League auspices at the gathering of Dominion riflemen at Ottawa in September. As last year, this is to be awarded for the highest score in the Snider aggregate made by a member of the League who has entered for this competition, and the special entry fee charged is again to go to make up a series of individual prizes. Lt.-Colonel the Hon. J. M. Gibson, President of the League, has again presented a prize which also is to be shot for at the D. R. A. meeting. The conditions again call for teams of ten men from any Battalion having teams entered for the League matches, but while last year the scores of any ten present could be counted, on this occasion seven members of the team must be named in advance.

The League deserves the heartiest encouragement from all interested in the welfare of rifle shooting in the Dominion, and we trust there may be a realization of the bright anticipations the executive have formed for this season.