

EACH association, provincial or local, affiliated with the Dominion Rifle Association receives annually from the latter body a handsome silver medal for competition amongst the members of the affiliating organization, and entitling the winner to one free entry in the Dominion of Canada and the Association matches of the D. R. A. These medals have heretofore been made in England, but this year the contract has been awarded to and is being very satisfactorily executed by a Canadian firm, Messrs. P. W. Ellis & Co., of Toronto. A double advantage has been secured thereby, the work not only being done at home, but also so performed at a saving of about a dollar apiece on the fifty-five medals, which now cost we believe \$4.50 in place of \$5.50 each as heretofore. True, this is not a very large amount, and it is the use which it has been proposed should be made of a portion of this surplus in the appropriation for medals which gives the matter its chief interest. This is, to grant to each provincial association an additional medal, the new one being bronze, the greater importance of these organizations compared with the smaller bodies affiliating—not to speak of the great difference in the affiliation fees—making it fitting that a distinction should be made in issuing the medals.

WHILE on the subject of affiliated associations, we would like to call the attention of the secretaries of such to a grievance which the secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association has against them. That is, the fact that they neglect to forward him their addresses, or acquaint him with the fact when any change occurs in the occupancy of the office, and thereby cause no end of trouble and inconvenience. This is, of course, the result of thoughtlessness, and it is hoped that any secretaries reading this paragraph will be prompt in furnishing the required information.

IN the United States Military Service Institution Journal for March there is published an interesting paper by Lieut. F. M. Woodruff of the U. S. regulars, on the subject of "Our Northern Frontier," considered in connection with the supposed breaking out of armed hostilities between Canada or Great Britain and the States. The paper received first prize in a competition under the auspices of the institution, which thereby tacitly adopted as correct the views there expressed. Lieut. Woodruff states that the possible arm-bearing force of the Dominion consists of militia, which, if turned out to the last man, would number "about 900,000 effectives for active service," though it would be practically impossible to place so great a number under arms. After giving some details respecting the organized militia force, and calling attention to the insufficiency of its training, he says that the weakness in the organization is its lack of a "nucleus of a transport system." He admits, however, that during the recent outbreaks in the North-West the troops were moved to the front with remarkable rapidity. Canada's chief advantage, he thinks, lies in the possession of admirable railway and inland navigation systems. By means of these English troops, sent out by steamers of the Cunard, Guion, White Star and Inman lines, could be quickly distributed at important points throughout the country. The part which the English fleet of gunboats and cruisers would play is thus described:

"Forty-three of these vessels draw less than seven feet of water, and some would immediately pass through the Richelieu river and Chambly canal to Lake Champlain; this naval force would be auxiliary to a land force that would approach the frontier of New York from Montreal. From Halifax and St. John, N.B., a strong naval force would threaten the important cities from Eastport, Me., to Hampton Roads, and so absolutely defenceless are all these cities that they would be placed under tribute. England would send some of her fleet to occupy Gardiner's Bay, at the eastern end of Long Island, the occupation of which would be of the highest strategical importance, as it would furnish the enemy with a secure harbour for his transports, and it would serve as his most important base of operations. From St. John England would send a land force into Maine, and thus secure control of the railroads even as far as Portland, where she would already have had some of her ironclads. From Bermuda she would send her vessels to lay the cities of the South Atlantic and Gulf coast under tribute, and finally from Victoria she would send them to San Francisco and Portland,

Oregon. On the entire frontier the only point at which the United States possesses the whole advantage is Minnesota and Dakota, where we could quickly send a force to invade Manitoba, and cut off communication with the extreme west. In addition to the bases of operations named, Kingston, Toronto and Hamilton would serve as bases upon Lake Ontario for naval operations; and as every effort would be made to keep the Welland canal intact; they would also serve as bases for operations on Lake Erie. The ordnance stores and war material possessed by the English and at the disposal of Canada, and the perfect system of navigation and railroad communications from Montreal, which is only fifty miles from Rouse's Point, would soon place the whole of Northern New York under control of the enemy. This would include the two frontier railroads and the city of Ogdensburgh."

Up to this point Lieut. Woodruff concedes the advantage to the enemy, but he holds that as the United States could arm and equip 20,000 men every week matters would soon be "evened up." In the meantime the following programme would probably be adopted by our neighbours:

"Regular troops would be massed at four or five points on the frontier, viz., at St. Vincent, Minn.; Detroit, Mich.; Buffalo, Ogdensburgh and Rouse's Point, N.Y. Upon the declaration of war the troops should be ordered to occupy and hold at all hazard Windsor, opposite Detroit; Fort Erie, opposite Buffalo, and Prescott, opposite Ogdensburgh; a bold dash by some picked men would probably give us the possession of four bridges across the Niagara River, viz., the Suspension bridge, Cantilever and the International bridges, and the small Suspension bridge. The troops taking possession of Fort Erie should make a desperate effort to reach and destroy the Welland canal, or disable it as much as possible; and the troops from Ogdensburgh should attempt the destruction of the Point Iroquois Junction and Galops canals; the latter is only seven and three-eighth miles below Prescott. That this might be done by a fearless commander is highly probable, for it was along this portion of the frontier that the Fenian raids were successfully made. The troops from Detroit should construct earthworks at Windsor, and also occupy Sarnia and Cartwright, and the commanders at these three places should be made to understand that there was to be no such thing as withdrawal or surrender. The troops from St. Vincent should move to Winnipeg, and hold that point to sever connections by the Canadian Pacific with the extreme west. Troops should be sent to Bangor, Me., to concentrate there a large portion of the National Guard of that State, and if any delay occurred in the operations of the Canadians, these troops should at once move towards Vanceborough, and if possible MacAdam, N.B."

GREAT interest centres in the revision of the infantry drill system which General Lord Wolseley has promised the British army. On this subject the *Broad Arrow* says: "For months we have heard rumours that our infantry drill was in process of revision, and have anxiously awaited the time when the result of so much careful thought and study should be given to the world, but in the excitement of administrative reorganization there is danger that the equally pressing need of a thorough overhauling of our drill system may escape attention. Our present drill system is based on the "march past," whereas it ought to be based on the "attack." We believe that, taking into consideration the peculiar qualities of the British soldier, his bodily strength and physical courage and his coolness in the hour of danger, the attack formation proposed by Lord Wolseley for Tel-el-Kebir is the one best adapted for the British Army. We would modify it so far that the half-battalions should be an open line of companies; that the companies should be double companies, so that the company in the front line should be supported by its twin company in the second line; that the third and fourth lines should either be half the brigade in the same formation, or taken from the second brigade. The independent movement of companies in two ranks preserving a general line seems to offer the greatest advantage, and to be open to the fewest objections."

The *Moscow Gazette* affords us some details respecting the gross effective of the land forces of all Russia. According to official figures the Czar can command 824,000 men for the active Army, with 1,600,000 reserves, and two million one hundred and sixty thousand additional troops in the first category of the territorial forces, or nearly four and a half million soldiery in the field. This host is in advance of the very important contingents of irregulars from outlying European and Asiatic provinces, whilst the numbers of the reserve could be doubled by reducing the term of service from five to two years. The latter fact, concludes the *Gazette*, is not ignored by our neighbours, and the Russian Army is in a position to successfully confront any coalition of hostile States. By an ukase, bearing date 15th June, but only just made public, the Senate committee at St. Petersburg is informed that the recruiting list of 1887 for Russia in Europe is fixed at 235,000 men. It is also ordered that the settled populations and regions of the Terek, Kouban and Transcaspian region in Asia must furnish a force of 2400 irregular horse.