

### 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.]

#### AN UNCLAIMED PRIZE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE, —On the 17th inst. I received from Lt.-Col. J. Macpherson, treasurer D.R.A., a registered letter containing a prize: it was the 15th prize in the Revolver match, in amount three dollars. The curious part of the business is that I did not fire a single shot in said match, and consequently I could not possibly win a prize therein. The circumstance recalled to me the familiar lines: "Some men are born great; some achieve greatness; while others have greatness thrust upon them." I am half inclined to think the last phrase would be applicable in the present case.

With a full knowledge of the above facts and as a member of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association I could not conscientiously retain a prize I did not win, and accordingly on the 19th inst. I returned to the treasurer the amount sent me, viz., an envelope said to contain three dollars.

Now, sir, I think I am able to offer you a fair explanation of how this mistake occurred. On the first day of the D. R. A. meeting I purchased 21 extra series tickets, that is, 3 in each of the 7 series. I had no chance to fire the revolver tickets and did not hand them in to the register keeper until Wednesday noon, and I had not thereafter an opportunity to fire them. When the match was closed the register keeper said to me that he had left *two* tickets of mine in the secretary's tent. I contended that there should be *three*, but he said that was all he had and thought I must be mistaken. I said nothing further and took the two tickets.

After returning home I saw by the newspapers that my name appeared in the Revolver match as a prize winner. Thinking it was a mistake of the printers I did nothing further in the matter until I received the prize as above stated.

No doubt some person by mistake or designedly has fired on one of my tickets and put on a winning score for me.

GEO. A. McMICKING, Captain.

P. S.—I hope I may have as good a show for the "Queen's" at Bisley next year.

G. A. McM.

Niagara Falls, Ont., Sept. 20, 1890.

### Personal.

It will interest military men not already familiar with the fact to be told that George R. Gray, the famous shot-putter, is an officer of the Canadian Militia, holding a lieutenancy in No. 3 Company of the 35th Battalion. At the Manhattan Athletic Club games on Saturday last he put the 16-lb. shot 46 feet 2 inches, thus beating the world's record by 2 inches.

Lt.-Col. E. G. Prior, M.P., passed through Ottawa this week for British Columbia on his return from England, whither he went in command of the Bisley team. Since the Bisley meeting he has made a tour of the Continent, and while in Berlin was honoured with a position at the saluting point at a grand review of the troops by Emperor William. The Adjutant of the team, Major A. H. Todd, who also spent some time sightseeing after the shooting was over, arrived home in Ottawa last week.

The *United Service Gazette*, noticing an incident recently much discussed here, says:—"Vice-Admiral Watson and General Sir John Ross are considered to have properly maintained their right of precedence over Cardinal Taschereau at the State dinner given by the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Stanley of Preston, at Quebec, in honour of Prince George of Wales. As holding commissions from the Queen, the gallant officers could not yield precedence to one who is only of Papal rank, notwithstanding that Prince George and his host, though annoyed at the Cardinal's demand to have precedence next to the Prince, were disposed to accede to it."

Col. Marsden, who in July last succeeded Mr. A. P. Humphrey as secretary of the National Rifle Association, has found it necessary to resign owing to unforeseen domestic circumstances. It is probable that Colonel William Mackinnon will succeed him as secretary. Colonel Mackinnon, then Captain Mackinnon, of the Buffs, was one of the members of the Small Arms Committee appointed in 1866, and presided over by the late Colonel Fletcher, to which we owe the Martini-Henry rifle. Col. Mackinnon was afterwards D. A. G. for Musketry in India, and more recently Chief Instructor at Hythe. This year he was chief of the Range Department at Bisley.

"Sir Frederick Middleton and the Canadian Militia" is the topic of the leading article of the *United Service Gazette* last to hand. That paper, after reviewing the evidence in the Bremner fur case, and the

General's parting address, expresses its conviction that he was attacked with undue ferocity for a natural mistake, and adds:—"We think that General Middleton would have better consulted his own dignity by resigning immediately after the report of the Committee, but we can well understand his fear that such a step might appear like a consciousness of wrong-doing on his part. . . . On the question whether Sir Frederick would have done better not to have published any parting address, we think that he rightly decided to issue it, for the bitterest of his assailants and the organs of their party in the press did not stop short of attributing to him actual dishonour. As Sir Frederick observes, to be silent under unmerited censure is often the part of a soldier, and had he merely been charged with indiscretion or having overstepped his powers as a commander in the field, he might have chosen to retire without saying anything in his defence, and to leave it to the justice and generosity of the Canadian people to balance his general services against a single error of judgment."

### Rifle Competitions.

A match between the Detroit Rifle Company and the 21st Battalion, Essex Fusiliers, will take place shortly provided the necessary permission to cross into Canada is given the Detroit riflemen.

At the monthly competition of the Montreal Rifle Association at Cote St. Luc on Saturday the spoon winners were:—G. W. Sharpe, 84; G. D. McMartin, 81; E. Desbarats, 80; R. Binmore, 77.

At the weekly shoot of the Ottawa Rifle Club, at Queen's ranges, with Martinis, on Saturday last, the spoon winners were: 1st class, Maj. J. Wright, 90; 2nd class, R. Moodie, 88; 3rd class, C. M. Wiggins, 87.

No. 4 Company of the Governor General's Foot Guards had their annual class firing on Rideau range on Saturday, Lieut. Lambe in command. A liberal prize list had been made up by the officers. The chief scores were: Sergt. Cawdron 54, Sergt. Baken 53, Lieut. Lambe 50, Col.-Sergt. Reardon 46.

The Dominion Police had their annual prize meeting on Rideau range on Monday last, the programme including three rifle matches and an aggregate, and also a revolver match. The aggregate winners were as follows, the ranges included being 200, 400, and 500, and the H. P. S. 210: Constable Brown 174, Constable Chamberlin 152, Inspector O'Leary 149, Constable Morrison 148, Sergeant Slade 141, and Constable Timbers 134.

The second annual prize meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association will be held at Regina on the 24th, 25th and 26th inst. The programme just to hand shows that no less than sixteen competitions, each with a good prize list, are to take place. The book itself is very neatly printed, and reflects no little credit on the *Leader* establishment, whence it issued.

#### THE SIXTY-THIRD BATTALION.

The 63rd Battalion Rifle Association held its annual competition at Bedford range on Thursday last, the 18th inst. There was a small turnout of the battalion, due to the weather, as when the time came to start for the train, though the rain had ceased, the outlook for a disagreeable day seemed unmistakable. The conditions for shooting were not good during the forenoon, the wind being blustery, but in the afternoon fortune was kinder to the riflemen. Captain Butler's company—No. 4—distinguished itself, carrying off not only the silver bugle, but winning the skirmishing match. Companies 3 and 4 tied for the prize, and it would have gone hard with the latter had not one of the No. 3 men missed his last shot. Bandsman Hanson is one of the new shots who did well and promises to do better. In the bugle competition, for company teams of five, No. 4's team were successful. No. 1 held the bugle last year, and its falling into new hands will have a good effect—that of widening the interest in the competition and letting the other companies feel that no one company has a "mortgage" on the time-honoured trophy. The grand aggregate, D.R.A. silver medal, was won by Private Pickford, No. 3 Co., with 107 points, being followed by Lt.-Col. Walsh and Bandsman Defreytas, with 105 points each. Lieut. James' special prize, for the highest aggregate at 200, 400 and 500 yards, made by a new member, was won by Bandmaster Hanson. Captain Crane offered a very handsome field glass and case for competition among those members of the association who had taken part in the affiliated match at the provincial shooting. Sergeant Daniels and Bandmaster Hanson tied with 93, and shooting off the prize came to the former. The presence of Major Egan, Captain Bishop, Lieutenant James and other members of the battalion, though not shooting, was a pleasant feature of the day. Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh is a thoroughly popular officer, in the best sense, and Captain Corbin by his geniality makes it pleasant for all on the range. He has had charge of it for 20 years, and for the past nine there has not been the slightest accident, and before that time but trivial mishaps. Captain Butler's team were in high feather over their day's