

2nd Series—Nursery.

Pte. Russell, 60th	201	\$8	Pte. Farrar, 6th Fusiliers	179	\$4
Corp. Brown, 3rd V.R.C.	185	6	Pte. Mailleue, G.G.F.G.	175	8
Pte. Scott, 6th Fusiliers.	181	5			

3rd Series—Team Aggregates.

43rd Battalion (silver cup) ..	788	\$20	60th Battalion	773	\$10
6th Fusiliers	783	15			

[The Metropolitan rifle association of Ottawa returned a total score of 790, which would have made them first in the team aggregate. The statistical officer reported, however, that the score of one of the members of the team had been incorrectly given, 26 points being credited him in the Frontier match, whereas the register ticket was said to show that he had made only 21. In accordance with the rule his score was disallowed entirely, thus destroying the team aggregate and throwing himself out of the high place in the individual aggregate to which he had attained. The competitor in question is prepared to make affidavit that he really made 26 points, and the man who shot with him bears him out in this. He had left for home before the aggregates were published, but a protest has been sent by mail. The members of the 43rd battalion constituting the team which has been awarded the first place, were the sole representatives of that corps present at the meeting, and are on that account all the more to be congratulated on their success.]

4th Series—The Governor-General's Medals.

First prize, the Governor-General's silver medal, won by Staff-Sergt. Wynne, 5th Royal Scots, with 81 points; 2nd, the Governor-General's bronze medal, won by Pte. Smith, 5th Royal Scots, with 75 points.

5th Series—The Lieutenant-Governor's Medal.

First prize, the Lieutenant-Governor's silver medal, won by Sergt. Thompson, 8th Royal Rifles, Quebec, with 86 points.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.

The presentation of the leading prizes took place on Wednesday evening, in the Victoria rink, which was brilliantly decorated for the occasion, and where had gathered a large representation of Montreal citizens including many ladies. Representatives of all the local corps were present in uniform. In the absence of the Lieut.-Governor, who on account of illness had a few hours previously to return to his home in Sherbrooke, Lieut.-Col. Van Straubenzie, D.A.G., presided. Before proceeding with the presentation he called upon Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., for a speech, in the course of which that gentleman paid a graceful tribute to the citizen soldiery of Canada, and of Montreal in particular, and also complimented the officers of the P. Q. R. A. upon the happy manner in which the meeting had been conducted. The band of the Victoria Rifles admirably played a choice selection of music during the evening.

Correspondence.

REGULARS ON THE SHOEBURNESS TEAM.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—The Canadian artillery teams that have visited Shoeburyness on each occasion have succeeded in winning in the chief competitions with those of Great Britain. This appears very gratifying to us Canadians, but when we reflect on the reasons it becomes not quite so pleasant to contemplate. The competitions under the National artillery association of England are open to the volunteers only of the British Isles, and lately the Canadian militia were allowed to send a team. This was all very well, but unfortunately we have not adhered to the rules, or the spirit of the rules, of the mother country. In order to explain, I will mention the fact that *only volunteers* are privileged to compete at these meetings; not even the militia of England are allowed to enter, much less the regular forces, but generally a match is arranged at the end of the meeting for any of such who may be employed about the ranges, &c., the reason of course being that trained soldiers are not considered fair antagonists for volunteers. Another rule existing reads as follows: "No paid instructor can compete." That is, no n.c.o. or officer from the regular forces, or otherwise acting as an instructor under pay, can actually take part in the contests, though he may coach the teams previously, prior to the matches. Now, how do we proceed in forming our team? We select twenty men from the militia, but in these we include very cleverly four men from A and B batteries, two from the Royal Military College, a staff-sergeant from the Royal School of Artillery, and an officer, generally the adjutant of one of the schools, as second in command, who looks after the actual discipline and working of the squads; Thus we have *six regular* soldiers, picked men at that, a staff-sergeant and an officer of the same stamp on our team. What would be the result at Shoeburyness if an English squad was to borrow a staff-sergeant, an officer, and half a dozen gunners from the royal school of gunnery there? Some maintain it is fair play on our part, because our men are all members of the D.A.A.; but, unfortunately, they are not. Last year, when the English team visited us, why were the n.c.o.s. and gunners of A and B batteries not allowed to enter in the contests at Orleans island? Because they are not volunteers. And quite right too. Is it not peculiar that also in our own matches under the D.A.A. the permanent corps and the R.M.C. are never allowed to test their powers with the rest of the militia? Why are they, then, slipped into a team contrary to rules for the home competitions? Some day the Englishmen will see this, and then some Canadians will feel the uncomfortable position when an explanation is necessary. How it can be explained with credit to us I fail to see. Would it not be well to tackle the British volunteers on a fairer footing, in order to feel that a victory obtained is clear of all advantage on our part, and blessed with the feature of fair play? The only supporters of the present custom are those who uphold the maxim, "Win at any cost." I say so too, but let us do it with a clear conscience.

SIX-BY-NINE.

THE NEW AMMUNITION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—I observe that in your paper some remarks have been made as to the quality of the Canadian Snider ammunition, and as the competitors at the annual matches of the Western District rifle association, held at London on the 11th and 12th inst., used it, it may be of interest to know how it worked, and how it was spoken of by competitors. The ammunition was 1886 issue, dominion make. I myself, and several of the experienced marksmen who have been successful at the

dominion matches and at Wimbledon, examined some of this ammunition, taking the cartridges to pieces and comparing the bullet, powder and general make up with the English ammunition, some of which we had. We found the powder very clean, but more irregularity in size of grains than with the English, which was not so clean, and on being rubbed between the hands sciled them, while the Canadian powder did not. On the whole it was considered that the Canadian ammunition, 1886 make, on examination compared favorably with the best English ammunition. The matches lasted two days, and about eighty-five marksmen competed. The weather was not favorable for large scores, wind and light being variable, yet fair scores were made, and not one complaint was heard about ammunition. There was an absence of drop shots, the general difficulty being with the wind and high shots, perhaps caused by the moist atmosphere owing to a rain storm on the morning of the second day. It was observed by some whose opinion I value, that there seemed to be less fouling than with English ammunition, but in hot, dry weather this might not be the case. I may say that the previous issues of dominion ammunition were not regarded as entirely satisfactory by the competitors here; they preferred the English, but though enough of the best English ammunition could have been obtained for long ranges this year, they did not care to change, and were content to go on with Canadian 1886 issue, which, I understand, is to be used at Toronto and Ottawa; where it will be more fully tested.

W. MACDONALD,

Captain retired list, late 1st Brigade F.A., Guelph.

GUELPH, August 17th, 1886.

RETIRED OFFICERS' PAY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—In a previous number of the GAZETTE I noticed an article on the injustice of depriving me of my pension, earned by thirty years' service to the empire in every quarter of the globe. As I had been regularly paid my pension for more than a year after I had taken up arms at the request of Her Majesty's government in Canada, for the maintenance of Her Majesty's supremacy, I informed you that I had not been deprived of my pension. I am sorry to say that I must now inform you that your surmise was correct. Last June I received a letter from the war office stating that as my pension was partly earned by my service under the Canadian government, I was not entitled, under article 991 of the pay warrant, to such pension for the period during which I was employed by the Canadian government in suppressing the rebellion in the North-west, and directing me to refund the amount, my pension being stopped until I had done so. I would wish to avoid commenting on the action of Her Majesty's government towards me, but I have a right to give the words of the paragraph referred to by the war office, and your readers may judge for themselves: Para. 991. "Retired pay shall not be issued to an officer under article 990, unless it shall have been earned by the completion of the period of actual military service required to entitle him to such retired pay." Can there be any question as to my having completed the period of military service required? Otherwise I would not have been granted the pension. In no way would my case come under the warrant quoted. It is exceptional. I accepted no appointment of profit under the Canadian government. The pay I received did not cover the losses I incurred. I received no bonus from the Dominion government, nor compensation in any form. I had been a soldier, I was a civilian, I left my private business and temporarily took up arms in an emergency at the urgent request of the Dominion government. The service I was rendering was no secret. I reported it to the Imperial government before drawing my pension, and stated the net pay I had received. No objection was made at the time and my pension paid regularly for over a year, when I am suddenly ordered to refund on a clause of which the Queen's English as well as the Queen's justice is perverted. And this is the sole recognition I have received for my services to both governments. On this point I make no comment, except as to the troops I commanded. They saved a province from anarchy and bloodshed. Would the Canadian Pacific railway have been completed at this moment, giving an imperial highway to the east, if Alberta had not been held in a firm grasp, and rebellion rolled up from the frontier to "Frenchman's Butte," by the marching and fighting of the gallant troops I had the honor to command? They, like myself, have not yet been paid their just claims.

T. B. STRANGE, Major-General,

Late commanding Alberta field force.

Military Colonization Rancho, P.O. Gleichen,

ALBERTA, N.W.T., August 12th, 1886.

THE 18TH AND 50TH BATTALIONS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I see it stated in the papers that the once famous 50th Battalion, or "Huntingdon Borderers," are likely to be wiped out as being disorganized. This is too bad, after all the bravery they showed during the Fenian campaigns of both 1866 and 1870, especially the latter one, where for their good services they were granted the honor of carrying "Trout River" on their colors and given the regimental motto, "Watch the front; watch well." I sincerely trust this fine old corps may not be so dead as we are led to believe by the newspapers. Certainly an effort should be made, if reports are true, to resuscitate it, and without delay, too. And what of the 18th or Prescott Battalion? Where is it? Echo answers where? Here is a corps that has been notoriously dead for several years past, and is still dead (except on paper), from causes that are well known at headquarters, and the battalion to-day consists in reality of the lieut.-colonel, paymaster and quartermaster, one combatant and two non-combatant officers! This fact is notorious, and the late efficient brigade major, as well as the present one, are both fully aware of it. Why, then, should such a state of things be permitted to exist for three or four years and nothing done by the authorities that be? There is more cause or reason to wipe out the supposed 18th Battalion by far than the brave 50th, who have done noble duty in defence of their country both on the frontier and in aid of civil power upon various occasions. When did the 18th Battalion appear on parade last? When did it go to camp last? How many men does it actually muster to day? are all pertinent questions; but who can answer them? It is time something were done in the matter, as the united counties of Prescott and Russell contain just as loyal men to-day as they did in 1866, when the then fine 18th Battalion did its share of active service.

IXION.

L'Orignal, Aug. 9, 1886.