

play billiards or faro. If it were in the power of the various Provincial Associations to offer an annual prize list of about \$3,000, distributed over say a dozen matches it would offer great inducements for beginners to practice. With twenty prizes in a match a young shot feels that he may have a chance. More prizes than twenty make it merely shooting for the money, not for honor. The Government should furnish the money for the prize lists of each Provincial Association. The grant received by the Province of Quebec this year was \$1700, and the writer along with Captain Worsley of the 60th Rifles collected about \$800 more. It is not a pleasant task collecting subscriptions and one that should not be necessary. Our prize list amounted to \$2900, and "Marksman's" observation that a practical shot can lay out a range far better than a theoretical man was amply proved to be correct by the beautiful manner in which the rifle ranges at Point St. Charles were handed over to the Association by Capt. MacPherson the Vice-President of the Montreal Club. The cost of laying out 8 ranges, furnishing platforms of the most solid description at each firing point, building five new butts, (Hill's system) and a large shed 24ft. by 12ft., 15ft. high and shingled; at Secretary's office, discs, paints, &c., was only about \$600. The expenses of managing a match well are very great and "Marksman's" allowance is rather under the mark. What we paid was as follows: Privates 75 cts per day; Non-Coms. \$1; Sergt.-Majors \$1.50; Buglers \$1; Clerks \$1.50.

Printing and advertising run away with a good deal of money, and I believe I will be under the mark if I put the expenses of the management of the Quebec Provincial matches down at \$1000. The great point, however, was that there were no complaints and everything ran smoothly simply owing to every point of detail having been foreseen and attended to before the matches commenced. The Association were very much indebted to Col. Fielden of the 60th Rifles who anticipated their every wish, and although his regiment was very short handed gave them nearly forty men for a week. I fear I have wandered far from the subject. I had in view when I commenced to scribble to-day, so for fear of straying still further I must wind up by asking "Marksman" to send me his card as I should like to know him,

I am, yours truly,
ROYAL.

BRIGADE MAJORS.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—I care not for needlessly rushing into print, but I can only tell your correspondent, the "Retired Militia Officer," that what I have written I have written and repeat and can support, none of which, however, does he dare to contradict. But, in answer to his first question, I am most

happy to inform him that my remarks did not apply to the whole Dominion, nor Ontario, nor the whole of Quebec. Regarding his second question I shall only tell him that the Brigade Major makes out his claim himself, and it is to be presumed he knows for what. A further answering of this question has nothing to do with my statements, I therefore decline going further into the matter just now more especially as I see that a "Retired Militia Officer" knows but little about the matter in question.

Therefore, if it is not from mercenary motives that he identifies himself with those who try to blindfold the public, it is through ignorance. I deny that I abuse the Brigade Majors as a body. Some of my most esteemed and intimate friends are amongst the numbers, still I say they are not the worst paid or hardest worked officers of the force, far from it. A District Paymaster comes nearest the truth, he has the responsibility of large sums of money, liable to losses; the keeping of accounts, and many other things; he has to give security to the extent of twenty thousand dollars, for which he gets the paltry sum of fifty dollars per month, and nothing more directly or indirectly. It is a disgrace to the country the way in which Militia matters are managed, and I am only one in thousands who hold the same opinion. It is made use of for political jobbery, the service of efficient officers are not secured nor sought; those who have spent much of their time and money for the good of the service and the country, and who thoroughly understand their duties in the field or office are overlooked, yea, shamefully treated; therefore, what is the country to expect from the department or he who is at its head.

Your retired correspondent tells us we are not to tell the country that an officer or officers send in trumped up reports. We are to wink at the deception because he or they belong to a body who ten, fifty or an hundred years ago had genuine, patriotic and efficient men to boast of (as it has also at the present day too). A nice speech truly for one who would boast of independence, justice and truth.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obed't. servant,
A MILITIA OFFICER.
Montreal, Nov. 10th, 1869.

[Assertion is not proof. If our correspondent cannot state facts we must close our columns to the discussion.—ED. VOL. REV.]

FROM ELORA, ONT.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Your Toronto correspondent regrets to have to state that he will, temporarily at least, have to forego the pleasure of recording matters of Volunteer interest in the Queen City, being about to enter an American University for the winter.

It has been my pleasure to pass a week in

the beautiful village of Elora, so celebrated for its beautiful scenery and splendid water privileges. The drill shed of the Elora Rifle company is one of the finest company sheds in Canada, being entirely of stone and finished in the inside with plastered walls and plank flooring. It is of course the concert hall, &c., of the village. Last week twelve men of the Elora Company proceeded to Fergus to compete with the Fergus Company but were beaten by eight points; in the return match here, however, the tables were turned by the critical majority of three points. The ranges were 200 and 400 yds., and at the close of the first distance Fergus lead by 15 points, but nothing daunted the Eloraites stuck to it and on the round before the last had reduced the difference to two points. The interest now became intense and each one devoted a care to his last shot which had it prevailed from the commencement would have revealed a much better score. The fate depended on the last shot which, unluckily for Fergus proved a miss. The range here can be made a very fine one and extends to 1000 yards. Although both matches took place in a snow storm, the average shooting of the respective twelves was very good, the winning score being 273 points in the 10 rounds.

After the match, in return for a similar treat at Fergus, both companies sat down to a spread at Bame's Hotel which would have done credit to the Terrapin at Toronto. Never have I in the past ten years as a Volunteer witnessed such a generous company entertainment—equal to any officers' mess. The very best of cordial feeling existed between the members of these two crack corps of the celebrated Wellington Battalion, (the strongest in the Dominion) and toasts and songs followed each other in rapid succession, intermingled with "short speeches and long drinks." Mr. Smith sung several soul-stirring patriotic songs amid great applause. A strong Volunteer spirit exists here and is sure to continue while such zealous and intelligent officers as Major Clarke, and Capts. McBride and Orton, remain in command, and the respective corporations lend their hitherto generous assistance. Major McMillan of the Waterloo Battalion delivered an eloquent oration on behalf of the 30th and Volunteers generally, which he maintained were not adequately supported by the Dominion Government, and were deserving of further consideration during the forthcoming session. His humorous allusions to certain incidents of camp life at the front were loudly cheered. It fell to the lot of your correspondent to reply to his own health and on behalf of the *Volunteer Review* and the Ladies. After singing "Auld Lang Syne" with joined hands and the national anthem the company separated about 11 p. m.

Leave of absence to proceed to England is granted to Lieut. W. Grant, 1st Batt. Rifle Brigade, from 4th November, 1869, to 4th May, 1870.