

desired encounter. The circumstances of the case, as reported, are such that the officer in question should either disprove the charges or at once retire; but there seems no feasible way of forcing him to meet his accusers.

THE young Canadian who so acceptably served with Stanley in his African expedition, has lately received an official reward, as the following reference from the *United Service Gazette* will show: "The slowness of promotion in the Royal Engineers is brought to the front by the acceptance by Lieut. W. G. Stairs, R.E., of a captaincy in the Welsh Regiment, offered in recognition of his services as an African explorer during his participation in Mr. Stanley's late African expedition in relief of Emin Pasha. It is by no means a usual occurrence for the command of a company in a Line battalion to be given to a subaltern of the Royal Engineers. Captain Stairs brings honour to the Canadian Military College, for it was from that establishment that he was gazetted to the Royal Engineers in 1885. On his return from Stanley's expedition he was last June appointed Adjutant to the Royal Engineer troops at Aldershot, and he now gets his captaincy in a Line regiment."

HOMING PIGEON CONTESTS.

In connection with the Toronto Industrial Exhibition for this year, arrangements have been made for the following pigeon races. Competing birds may be flown by loft owners residing in either of the two cities forming the terminals of the course in each case:—

Toronto and Kingston—Open to members of the Dominion Messenger Pigeon Association only. First prize a gold medal, value \$20, presented by the Dominion Messenger Pigeon Association; 2nd prize, silver medal, presented by the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association; 3rd prize, a bronze medal, presented by the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association.

Toronto to London—Open to all. First prize, a silver medal, presented by Mr. A. V. de Laporte, jr., Toronto; 2nd prize, a bronze medal, presented by the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association.

Toronto and Montreal—Open to all. First prize, a silver medal, presented by the Toronto Industrial Association; 2nd prize, a bronze medal, presented by the Toronto Industrial Association.

Toronto and Guelph—Open to all. First prize, a silver medal, presented by the Toronto Industrial Association. 2nd prize, a bronze medal, presented by the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association.

These races will come off in the latter part of August and the beginning of September. A starter and time-keeper will be appointed at each of the named cities. Each bird entered for the race must bear on one or more of its primary flight feathers, the name and address of its owner; and, if the bird does not carry a marked seamless band on one of its legs the registration number of the bird should follow the name and address on the wing feathers.

The new terms of personal military service will give Holland 40,000 young men yearly eligible for military service, of whom 16,300 will be called to the colours.

A thoughtful study of the relations of Russian and British India contributed to the Berlin *Militar Wochenblatt* by a German officer who has spent 18 months in India, presents the future prospects of British Empire in India in a very unfavourable light. Russia has the advantage of the position, and the Asiatics are disposed to trust their future to her rather than to England.

THE LEAGUE PROGRAMME FOR 1891.

The official programme for the Canadian Military Rifle League competitions for the coming season has just been issued and is as follows:—

Teams.—The teams for 1891 to be composed of ten *bona-fide* members of any Battalion, Village, Town, City or County Rifle Association. The Headquarters Staff Team may be composed of members of Headquarters Staff, Militia Department or Governor General's Staff. Each Regiment or Association may enter any number of teams, and it is not necessary to have the same men on team each match, nor to send the names of those to compose the team to the Secretary previous to match. Hand them to the Range Officer before commencing to fire.

Dates of Matches and Ranges.—First Match, Saturday, 16th May; 200, 400 and 500 yards. Second Match, Saturday, 30th May; 200, 500 and 600 yards. Third Match, Saturday, 11th July; 200, 400 and 500 yards. Fourth Match, Saturday, 25th July; 200, 500 and 600 yards. Fifth Match, Saturday, 8th August; 200, 400 and 600 yards. Seven shots at each range.

Positions.—200 yards, kneeling or standing; 400 and 500 yards, prone; 600 yards, any.

Sighting Shots.—One sighting shot allowed at each range.

Other Firing.—Those composing a team may indulge in other firing during a match, the sighting shots being allowed for this purpose.

Rifle.—Snider (long, short or carbine).

Telegraphing.—The team's total score and weather detail be telegraphed via Canadian Pacific Company's Telegraph, as follows:

To Chief Operator, Toronto:

Team.....	Weather.....
Battalion.....	Wind o'clock.
	Light
Team's total score.....points.	

Telegraph charges, 50 cents per team each match, to be paid at telegraph office at the time of sending despatch. As soon as the Chief Operator shall have received all the scores he shall send a return despatch to each team containing said scores. Telegraphing to the Secretary.—Prepay all messages to the Secretary, who, on Match days, will be on Toronto Rifle Range, the latter being connected with the main line by a special wire. The Secretary will be in the operating room after 7 p.m. on Match days.

Score Sheets.—The Score Sheet to be properly filled out and contain the shot for shot detail, and weather detail, etc., of team, and to be vouched for and signed by the Register Keeper, Captain of Team and Range Officer, and to be made out in duplicate and sent by mail to W. R. Pringle, Secretary of League, P.O. Box 542, Toronto. *The Score Sheet must be used during the match.* Score sheets will be forwarded on receipt of entrance fees.

Range Officers.—The Range Officer must not belong to the Corps or Association for which he is acting. He will please endeavour not to allow more men to fire at one time than he can personally oversee, and also (when possible) to appoint a register keeper from another corps or association. It will be his duty to see that all rules, etc., are properly observed, and that the conditions of the competition are strictly enforced, and also to have register keepers sign their names (in full) to the scores which they register, and to have the captain of the team and himself sign score sheet. It will also be his duty to measure the bullseye and rings of target to see that they are of the proper size.

The person who is to check the markers in the butts must be subject to his approval. The names of those to compose team must be handed range officer before the commencement of firing. After first shot is fired no change is to be made in *personnel* of team, but if the requisite number of men