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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The nomination of Major Delamere having met with the general approval of the executive he has been unanimously elected Secretary of the Canadian Military Rifle League for this year. His address in the Legislative Assembly, Toronto. It is to be hoped that the League programme will now be prepared without further delay, as the rifle associations throughout the country are anxious to make their arrangements to fit in with it.

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In the matter of affiliating with the Dominion Artillery Association, the batteries all over the country leave little to be complained of, but when one does stay out the members are apt to soon realize the mistake. In one battery, for instance, which failed to affiliate this year, two members would have been entitled to prizes in the short course efficiency competition, and shooting prizes and badges were also lost by the same mistaken economy. The cost of affiliating is only \$10.

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It looks as if the waiting men, outside the first twenty on the Bisley list, are doomed to disappointment this year, as there has been but one refusal, that of Staff-Sergt. Coulson N. Mitchell. The twenty-first man promptly accepted the vacancy thus made. The anticipated appointment of Lt.-Col. Massey and Major Macdonald to be Commandant and Adjutant respectively having been duly made, the team is now complete. As there are two months to pass before the date of sailing it is not unlikely that some change may yet occur, as often happens at the last moment. Fourteen of the twenty members have already shot in England on Canadian teams, and for the Kolapore cup contest an eight can be picked probably the most brilliant the Dominion can furnish. Ontario sends eighteen of the twenty members, and Quebec and New Brunswick contribute one each.

GENERAL HERBERT'S REPORT.

Very Free Criticism of the Canadian Militia Suggestions with a View to the Improvement of the System.

The Annual Report of the Department of Militia and Defence, just presented to Parliament, has for its most interesting feature the first report made by Major General Ivor Herbert, C. B., upon the Canadian Militia. This report is notable for the exceeding frankness of the criticism of several features of the system, and the recommendations of radical changes. These recommendations are in the main, however, a reiteration of those made for years past. His report in full is as follows:—

Headquarters, Ottawa,
1st February, 1892.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Militia, to the command of which I was appointed on the 20th November, 1890, entering upon my duties on the 5th December, 1890. The report for that year was then almost completed. I accordingly declined to assume any responsibility for that which was presented to Parliament in 1891.

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION AND PERMANENT CORPS.

I take first in order the permanent military establishments of the Militia, viz., the schools of instruction, and those corps, enlisted for permanent service, which furnish their personnel.

The returns (Appendices A and B) which have been drawn up under my direction, for the financial year ending 30th June, 1891, deal with that personnel from various points of view.

In the former, two sets of figures, under the headings "Become non-effective" and "Enrolled," show the waste that takes place, in an average year, in the permanent corps, and the manner in which that waste is made good, while a third set of figures shows the length of service of non-commissioned officers and men serving on the date above mentioned.

Appendix B, "Return of Courts Martial," covering the same period, gives an

idea of the temporary loss which occurs, in consequence of the more serious forms of military crime, and the necessary action of military law.

Deducting transfers and re-enlisted men, the waste of the year is shown to be 497 out of a total establishment of 966 non-commissioned officers and men. This waste may be reduced by 42 on account of men tried by court martial for desertion, who become available again, at the end of their sentences; and the net loss for the year placed at 455 men, or 47.10 per cent. of the establishment. It follows, therefore, that the greater part of the men in the ranks must be recruits, of less than 1 year's service. This is further proved to be the case, since 353 men are returned in that category, or 34.47 per cent. while, if the deficiency in the total strength were completed, to the full establishment, the proportion would rise to 41.30 per cent. The presence of so large a proportion of recruits, at the schools of instruction, is a serious disadvantage to their efficiency, since the small staff of instructors has to be constantly employed in drilling them, while their ignorance of discipline is apt to act as a bad example, to the attached men of the Active Militia.

Of men under two years' service there are 524, or 54.24 per cent. These men with a few rare exceptions are incapable of imparting instruction. There remains, therefore, only 45.76 per cent. which can be looked to, to provide instructors. Deducting from this number 28 per cent., representing 270 employed as artificers, officers' servants, bandsmen and others employed on duties not connected with instruction, we have only 17.76 per cent. from which selection can be made of trustworthy non-commissioned officers, for the administrative work of the permanent corps, and as acting instructors for the Active Militia. Practically, the proportion is even smaller. Briefly the result drawn from these figures may be stated thus:

Under 2 years' service.....	54.24
Employed on duties not connected with instruction.....	28.00
Non-commissioned officers employed in the active duties of the permanent corps.....	16.56
Balance nominally available to furnish extra instructors.....	1.20
	100.00