

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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## Comment and Criticism.

THE *Manitoban* thinks the money granted to rifle associations is wasted, inasmuch as these do not aid in developing a general knowledge of rifle shooting, and that the same sum might be better utilized in providing free ammunition. While we do not go so far as our contemporary, we think much more might be done by rifle associations to encourage and bring out new shots. As a rule the control of the associations is in the hands of the oldest members, those whom experience has made the best shots, and usually the competitions are arranged to suit their views rather than to bring out or bring on the green shots. Consequently, as is charged, we see the same old names on the prize lists year after year. Now that our rifle associations are setting their affairs in order for a fresh season's work suppose they resolve to be magnanimous, and arrange their programmes so as to fetch out the biggest crowds, and defer their own prize winnings for the larger meetings, those of the Provinces and Dominion, which are specially designed to bring together the pick of the shots. Give the youngster cheap ammunition and all the help you can, at least until he can make good shooting as a regular thing, and by that time his taste for rifle shooting will be developed, and he will stick to it without any need for further encouragement.

THE days of Wimbledon are numbered. If the matches are held there this year it will be for the last time. It appears that some property in the rear of the ranges belongs to the Duke of Cambridge, and stray bullets have been making things uncomfortable for his tenants, so Wimbledon must go. The annual gathering there has long been threatened, and threatened institutions live long, but now the fiat has gone forth. Of course the National Association, which is a prosperous one, will be able to find another range, but the old memories can scarcely be carried there, and the annual meeting by any other name will scarcely be the same thing. What we Canadians will do without a "Wimbledon" team to discuss is hard to realize.

THE discussion of the most likely sources of supply of horses for the Imperial service is exciting more interest in England than any one would have imagined possible, and we consider no excuse necessary for once more reminding Canada that now is her chance to build up a big trade. On the 4th inst. Lieut.-Col. R. G. Haliburton, late Canadian militia, delivered a lecture before the Royal United Service Institution, showing what Jamaica could do in the way of breeding horses in the mountains. He took a very sanguine view of the matter, which, however, was scarcely endorsed in the ensuing discussion, the authorities present agreeing that the hot climate and dampness militated against the maintenance of the necessary standard of height and weight. It was, however, conceded that superior horses for mounted infantry purposes could be procured very cheaply in Jamaica.

DURING the discussion Col. George Philips said:—"As regards the horses in Canada, where I went last summer in conjunction with Colonel Ravenhill, after travelling many thousand miles and seeing a vast number of horses, we rejected an immense number because they did not come up to the standard of measurement. We could have bought hundreds of horses if we had taken them at 15 or 15.1 hands. We took nothing under the standard, 15.2, for the reasons I have stated. Of course, for mounted infantry, there is no doubt the smaller and hardier the ponies the better they go along, and the easier they are to manage. I believe that on the eastern slopes of the Rockies in a very few years there will be as fine a breed of horses as we have now in Australia. They have climate, water, and magnificent grasses. I know of one gentleman who has a thousand picked mares on his ranche, and is going in for breeding horses for the English cavalry. The great difficulty we found out there was finding saddle horses. Very few people in Canada ride, and consequently in a country like that, where attention is given to draft horses, there is naturally a want of shoulder, which is the most essential thing for a cavalry horse. I think that in the future the eastern slopes of the Rockies, even without encouragement from our Government, will be able to supply us with thousands of horses."

THE garrison artillery of the country appears to have some claims on the militia authorities which have been too long neglected. In regard to armament, Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, in his official report of last year says: "With the exception of the Digby and Yarmouth bat-