

ing the clamour previously made about the insufficiency of the government issue of ammunition. The city corps, and those rural companies having ranges at their company headquarters, promptly made application for the ammunition and gave the necessary certificate that it would be properly expended, but rural corps not having company ranges have shown little disposition to turn out for practice. An endeavour has been made in several cases to obtain the ammunition on the guarantee, not that each man would fire his share, but that all issued would be fired by men of the corps receiving it. Such applications have very properly been refused, as the desire of the Department is not to give free ammunition to a few enthusiasts so that they may perfect themselves as target shots, but rather to encourage those unskilled in the use of the rifle to put in a little practice. Twenty rounds of ammunition free may seem a small inducement to a body of men to give up half a day or a day to the practice, but it should be remembered that the offer is made to volunteers, soldiering because they like to so occupy themselves, and not for what is to be made out of the business. It will be a pity if all entitled to the extra ammunition do not claim and fire it, because the future action of the Government with respect to the ammunition allowance is very apt to depend upon the outcome of this first step in the direction of an increase.

Dominion Rifle Honours.

The honours and emoluments of the Governor-General's match were very appropriately divided at the Dominion meeting this year. The Manitoba representatives attended under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, the provincial association having at the last moment repudiated their undertaking to send a team. The riflemen themselves then set to work, and by their own energy succeeded in raising the amount which the association was to have contributed towards the expenses of the trip, and, with the assistance of Lt.-Col. D. A. Macdonald, the representative of Manitoba on the Council of the D. R. A. at Ottawa, succeeded in obtaining a favourable rate from the C. P. R. As Staff-Serjt. Coulson Mitchell appears to have been the leading spirit in the riflemen's enterprise, it was fitting that if the chief prize of the Governor-General's match was to go to Manitoba he should be the winner; the team felt very proud of his achievement, and no doubt so did every member of his corps, the gallant 90th.

Capt. McMicking was no less deserving of the reward he secured in winning the second great prize. All season he had been engaged in coaching a green team in the League contests, sticking to his task with a determination which if emulated would soon produce a team of sharpshooters from every corps in the country.

The third prize, like the first, was taken by a zealous non-commissioned officer, Serjt. J. A. Waters, of the 6th Fusiliers. The Fusiliers are model soldiers. They are interested in everything pertaining to their duty, and their shooting men are as well up in their drill as they are in their knowledge of the rifle. That they were thoroughly drilled was evident to anyone who noticed the team parade at the formal presentation of prizes, when the Sixth were particularly noteworthy through being called up for a prize in nearly every team contest.

It is a matter for regret that the honours of the next Bisley team will not be so evenly divided geographically. Of the first twenty places, Ontario has captured no less than thirteen. Quebec secured four, New Brunswick two and Manitoba one. Nova Scotia, whose riflemen showed their sterling merit by winning the London Merchants' Cup in the provincial team match, by singular misfortune did not succeed in placing a single man in the first twenty, and Prince Edward Island and British Columbia are also unrepresented there.

The Toronto Ranges.

Happily there has not been found of late any excuse for creating alarm in the public mind about the use of the Garrison Common ranges, so for the present another line of action is being followed by those who seek to profit by the dispossession of the riflemen. The large Toronto deputation at Ottawa recently in connection with the railway questions at issue, seem to have taken the opportunity to further urge upon the

Militia Department and the Government the advisability of giving up the Common for exhibition purposes, for although nothing about this part of their mission has been made public, telegrams sent this week by Mayor Clarke, one of the deputation, seem to indicate a recent discussion of the business. The first is to Sir Adolphe Caron, as follows:—

"The people of Toronto urge you most earnestly and respectfully to come up and see the exhibition grounds and the immense crowds in attendance. There is hardly standing room on the grounds, upwards of 70,000 being in attendance to-day. Come on Wednesday or Thursday at latest."

Then, lest the Minister of Militia's solicitude for the welfare of the Toronto riflemen, a very important body in the force he controls, should prompt a refusal to place himself in the way of further temptation to dispossess them of their range, Mayor Clarke solicited the influence of the Premier, as follows:—

"I have wired Sir Adolphe Caron to come up and see the exhibition and the crowded state of the grounds. Kindly use your good offices with him to comply with my request. If you come yourself you will receive a royal welcome."

The "royal welcome" to the ministers was no doubt calculated to go a long way towards securing their consent to the appropriation of the range for exhibition purposes, and thus providing more than "standing room" for the holiday crowd. But were such consent given the effect upon the militia force of Toronto would be disastrous in the extreme, and its members look to the Government, and the Minister of Militia in particular, to continue their firm resistance to all attempts at interference with and the eventual closing of the range. With the exhibition association the question is one of money: they can obtain on the other side all the land they are willing to pay a fair price for; but to avoid outlay desire to obtain the use of the Common for a fraction of the immense value of the property.

In only one event should the Government ever consent to close this range, namely, when its use had unquestionably become a serious menace to human life. There is little or no danger at present. True, a life was lost a few years ago, by a stray bullet striking a lad who was boating where he had no necessity to be; but no range can be found anywhere so absolutely secluded that persons innocently wandering beyond the supposed limits of danger may not be struck by stray bullets. Casualties of this nature are of very rare occurrence, but inquiry of residents in the vicinity of any much used range will reveal the fact that bullets occasionally strike beyond the bounds from which the public are excluded, and sometimes uncomfortably close to men working in the fields. There is a certain amount of danger attendant upon rifle shooting which no precaution can avoid, and which must be risked in the interests of the general public for whose protection the riflemen are organized and trained. Careful inquiry will, we are convinced, demonstrate that in the case of a range such as that at Toronto, the danger necessarily attendant upon bullets occasionally straying beyond the proper bounds is much less than in the case of any inland range.

General Middleton's Two Mistakes.

General Middleton's parting address, which several weeks ago was published all over the country and has ever since been vigorously discussed in the press, was his second great mistake in connection with the unhappy business which led to his withdrawal from our service. His first was committed when he neglected to take the Government into his confidence at the time Bremner's champions first questioned his action. We have held and still hold that the General in declaring the furs confiscated and appropriating a small portion of them did nothing of which any honourable man need be ashamed. He believed he had the power to confiscate, and having exercised that power he appropriated some of the forfeited property, giving his written order as a receipt and directing that a memo. of the transaction should be made. There was no attempt at concealment; everything was above board. But the facts of the case were not made known to the Government until the evidence was produced, by bitterly hostile witnesses, before the committee of inquiry. Had they been previously communicated by General Middleton, there would have been no occasion for a parliamentary committee and no unfavourable report from that body. Influenced by that report, the Government saw fit to accept the resignation which the General tendered. But he left with the sympathy of the great majority of the people both civil and military.

Simultaneously with his departure his ill-timed parting address appeared. It was interesting as an additional chapter of the campaign history, but had little bearing upon the cause of the General's troubles. The "souvenir" telegram he published, no doubt only for the purpose