

It cannot be expected that the country will or can stand the expense of purchasing any of the more recent make of rifles, much as a magazine rifle is to be desired. There would, however, be little difficulty in supplementing the store of Martini-Henry rifles now on hand with a sufficient quantity to arm the efficient active force, and this change would be a great improvement upon the time honoured gas pipe now in use.

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An important order issued by the German Kaiser at the end of last year will probably do a good deal in exciting the emulation of commanding officers to take an active interest in the good shooting of their men. In this order the Kaiser directs that all general officers and others, in submitting the annual returns of the shooting for the army on November 30th of each year, shall bring to his personal notice officers who have distinguished themselves in the training of their companies, squadrons or batteries in shooting. The effect of this cannot fail to act beneficially in inciting individual officers to look closely after the training of their men.

#### THE D. R. A.

The annual report of the Dominion Rifle Association, just issued, contains the usual interesting information for those who like to fight their battles once again and explain how that outer happened to come in the middle of a good score, and why that string of bulls eyes trailed off with a wretched magpie.

The report of the council is brief and satisfactory. It alludes to the match between the Senate and the House of Commons, the presence of the contingent from the 1st Batt. Leicestershire Regiment, thanks the usual donors to the prize list, and others; alludes with regret to the death of Captain Macnachten of Cobourg, and speaks in high terms of the success of the Bisley Team, and of the report of Major Weston, the commandant.

This latter is undoubtedly the most important part of the report, and deserves close attention and careful consideration on the part of the executive. The recommendations made by Major Weston bear evidence of the advantage of occasionally obtaining the views of a practical rifle shot as commandant of the

Canadian Bisley Team. Allusion is made to the magnificent shooting of Lieut. Davidson in the Queen's, in which at one time at the last range he was leading the field, and eventually finished fourth. In this match Sergt. Henderson finished ninth, having made the best score of the field at 900 yards,—unfortunately he started badly in the first stage. The capture of the Prince of Wales' prize by Capt. McMicking is referred to, and the report concludes with a high eulogium upon the efficient and pains taking Adjutant, Major Blaiklock, and an expression of the pleasure it affords the writer to place before the President of the Association so favourable a record of the team of 1891.

We recommend to the attention of the incoming council a close perusal of the statement of comparative number of entries, etc., to be found on page xxiv. The decrease in the number of entries to the Snider Extra Series might be in a measure anticipated and accounted for by the introduction of sighting shots, but the decrease in the four series of Martini Matches can only be explained by the very limited period during which competitors could find time to take part in them. This must have resulted in a very considerable financial loss to the association, and was the occasion of no little annoyance and disappointment to members, who would greatly have preferred that the meeting should have been extended over another day rather than have been crowded and rushed in the way they were, and made to fire the most important match of the gathering almost in the dark.

It will undoubtedly benefit the association and better suit competitors to have the meeting laid out for five days instead of four, and it is hoped this course will be adopted this year.

#### MORRIS TUBES.

At the annual presentation of prizes of the 2nd Tower Hamlets Rifles, the commanding officer, Colonel Bryan, in the course of his remarks when opening the proceedings said that, at the last prize presentation the Brigadier in speaking of the musketry training had to remark upon the figure of merit, which was low by the bad shooting of certain companies.

Since then Morris Tube practice had been greatly used, and the figure of merit of the two bad companies had been thus

raised until it equalled that of other companies, and was better than some.

Subsequently Colonel Trotter, addressing the corps, congratulated every member upon the very satisfactory year they had passed through; also the prize winners upon their success, and especially he was pleased that the shooting had improved, and particularly that of the two companies who had not done so well in the previous year.

If they had reaped any advantage from the advice he gave a year ago to use the Morris Tube he hoped they and everyone would continue to use it; for it was very difficult for volunteers to get to ranges outside London.

#### FUTURE OF THE VOLUNTEERS IN ENGLAND.

The future of the volunteer force in England is apparently causing no little anxiety in many quarters there, and various are the devices suggested for strengthening the force at present, for increasing the public interest in it, and improving the status as a means to induce men to join hereafter.

The oldest and most popular corps appear to experience difficulty equal to that of their less well known brothers in arms in obtaining men to fill their ranks, and this scarcity is not confined to the ranks alone, as there is an equal difficulty found in disposing of vacant commissions, and the outcry for young officers is becoming very active.

The state to which some of the regiments have been reduced may be well imagined, when the Hon. Recruiting Secretary of that old, popular and well known corps, the Victorias, is compelled to address an appeal through the press to those interested in the regiment to either join themselves, or induce their younger relatives to do so, unless they wish it to be utterly extinguished; for he has found it utterly impossible to secure a sufficiency of recruits during the past year by use of the ordinary methods usually adopted for filling their ranks.

The dearth of officers and men, serious feature as it is, is not the only trial the force has to cope with at present. The affairs of the National Rifle Association, which has been one of the best aids and strongest factors in increasing public interest in the volunteers, are in anything but a satisfactory condition, and the outlook for its future is not bright unless