

ANGLO-BELGIAN PRIZE FUND--ESTABLISHED 1868.

We have received the following document from Capt. Mercier, which we print for the information of the numerous Volunteers who have been making inquiries at us regarding the event:—

Hon. President, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; Chairman, Colonel E. T. Gouley, M. P.; Treasurer, Colonel Charles Ratcliff; Hon. Secretary, Capt. Charles Mercier.

The Fifth Competition will take place this year (1872) at the Tir National, Brussels, and at the Tir-International, Ghent.

The following regulations will be strictly adhered to:

Staff.—The following officers will be appointed:—Brigadier, Brigade-Majors and A. D. C's, Battalion Commanders, Captains of Companies, Chief Medical Officers, Assistant Medical Officers.

Brigadier.—The brigadier will have the entire command of the Volunteers all on occasions when assembled together, under military organisation, and implicit obedience to his orders will be enforced.

Battalion Commanders.—Battalion commanders will receive the orders of the Brigadier through the brigade-majors and see that the same are promptly executed. They will also report as to any irregularity or want of discipline, to the brigadier for the council.

Brigade Majors.—The brigade major will make a daily inspection of the men in their divisions, will see that the orders of the day have been duly communicated, and will acquire full information as to the conduct and well-being of the men under their charge, and specially report the same to the brigadier, who will report to the council.

Company Officers.—Company officers will be expected to acquire full knowledge of the condition and conduct of each man in their separate companies, and to be their duty to enter in books, which the council will provide for each man, any information which, in their judgment, may be of sufficient importance to bring before the brigadier or council. They will also furnish reports to the brigade-majors as to the men on parade, and those absent with or without leave. They will also ascertain that their men fully comprehend all orders which the Belgian authorities and the council may from time to time issue, and will be expected to see that they are duly carried out.

Medical Department.—The council will provide a sanatorium for the reception of all cases of accident or sudden illness, and it will be the duty of one or more of the medical officers to attend daily at certain specified hours, and report for the information of the council on the state of health among the Volunteers. It will also be the duty of one or more of the medical officers to attend at the firing-points when any competition is in progress, and in the event of accident, immediately report it to the council.

Council.—The council will receive and consider all applications from Volunteers desiring to take part in the Tir-International, and it will be optional with them to reject applications. The council will also determine the route by which Volunteers shall travel; arrange as to fares, superintend general arrangements, and the lodging accommodation in Belgium; also in the event of invitations being issued for banquets, or other public entertainments, will receive and

distribute them. The council will bear the entire pecuniary responsibility, and a considerable amount will be given in prizes. £150 of which will be the usual annual subscription of His Majesty the King of the Belgians—and will also take charge of any special prizes, whether given by the committee or the public, with power to determine if they shall be given in money or value, if not otherwise specified by the donors. Volunteers will be classified according to the colour of uniform, and arranged in companies, which will be alphabetically designated. As the numbers of competitors must necessarily be limited, preference will be given to priority of application. Volunteers desiring to take part in the Ghent Tir-International must state by letter their willingness to abide by the regulations issued by the council, and must send in their applications, with stamped directed envelope, not later than 1st September 1872, stating rank, corps, and colour of uniform, to the honorary secretary, Captain Charles Mercier, 12 Albert Terrace, Albert Gate, London, S.W., together (unless an officer) with a certificate from the adjutant of the regiment to which he belongs, or from company officer, as to good conduct whilst a Volunteer, and whether distinguished as a marksman, with entrance fee of 10s 6d which will be returned in the event of the council having to refuse the application. Volunteers when in Belgium will be required to parade in full uniform, at such times and places as the brigadier may appoint, unless specially excused. Every Volunteer when in uniform will be required to observe a soldierly bearing, slovenliness of attire or a mixture of regimental with civilian clothing will be strictly prohibited. Officers alone will be permitted to wear undress uniform, which however must be the authorised undress uniform of their corps (not shooting undress). The practice of interchanging clothing or accoutrements between Belgian and English Volunteers, though kindly meant, is most reprehensible and will not be permitted. Whilst in Belgium, the council will sit daily at headquarters for the purpose of giving information and investigating any complaints. Volunteers must apply for information or making any complaints through the officer in charge of their companies. The decision of the council will in all cases be final.

Special Prizes.—A series of special prizes will be given, commencing with one from Mrs. Chambers, of Putney House, of the value of £20, and others.

Minor Regulations.—Minor regulations will be issued as to route, fares, tariff of board and lodging, conditions attaching to special prizes and other matters.

Rifles.—Only those who shall have signified at the time of entering that they intend to compete for prizes in Belgium will be permitted to take their rifles with them.

Ammunition.—To obviate the inconvenience which Volunteers experienced on former occasions, the Council will provide Government ammunition to the extent of fifty rounds per man, to be issued at regulation prices.

Regimental Greatcoats.—As Volunteers cannot be permitted to wear private greatcoats over their uniform, it is strongly recommended that they provide themselves with a regimental greatcoat, cloak, or cape. The council are endeavoring to make arrangements that regimental greatcoats, cloaks, or capes, shall be issued for the occasion to those Volunteers who may not possess them.

Penalties.—Any Volunteer who shall, during his stay in Belgium, be found guilty

of unsoldierly conduct, disobedience of orders, or insubordination, will be subject, at the discretion of the brigadier and council, to the penalty of having his name posted at head-quarters, as disqualified from participating in all competitions and festivals, and to the forfeiture of any prizes which he may have won. Cases of misbehaviour will also be reported to the commanding officers of the corps to which the offender may belong.

Note.—Government staff sergeants of the Auxiliary Forces, if they have obtained authority from the War Office, and other members of the Auxiliary Forces, subject to the above conditions, will be allowed to participate in the advantages offered by the council. All communications must be made to Captain Charles Mercier, the Honorary Secretary, at the undermentioned address.

CHAS. MERCIER, Hon. Sec.

25th July, 1872.

12, Albert Terrace,
Albert Gate, Hyde Park, S.W.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1872.

The following are the arrangements so far determined; should any important alteration be made it will be duly communicated. The Ghent, and Brussels Tir-International will commence at Ghent, September 16th, and terminate Brussels, September 28th:—

Ghent.

Sunday, September 15th.—Official reception of Volunteers at twelve o'clock, at the Hotel de Ville, when presentation of medals as *souvenirs* of the occasion will be made. Grand concert in the evening.

Monday, September 16th.—Opening of the Tir International by His Majesty the King. Grand banquet, gala concert, and general illumination.

Tuesday, September 17th.—Fetes in Zoological Gardens. In the evening Venetian fete.

Wednesday, September 18th.—Grand fete gymnastic au fete de Casino, ball, fireworks, and illuminations.

During the week there will also be other entertainments.

Shooting, of which details will shortly be published, will commence on Monday, September 16th, and continue until Saturday, September 30th.

The prizes will be 600 in number, and more than £1200 in value. The distances will be 110 yards, 218 yards, and 327 yards. Mrs. Chambers' Ghent prize will be shot for by Belgian and English Volunteers.

Numbers of Volunteers limited to 1000.

The Ghent committee will lodge in public schools 470 Volunteers (and a further number on palliasses without bedstead, at 4s 2d per diem for bed with breakfast, consisting of cold meat, eggs, tea or coffee, with bread and butter *ad libitum*). Volunteers wishing to avail themselves of this accommodation must apply for forms to Captain Mercier, Honorary Secretary. The beds will be allotted according to priority of application.

Brussels.

The Tir International will open in Brussels Sept. 22nd, and will terminate on the 29th. Full information with reference to the fetes and Tir will be published as soon as the necessary arrangements have been completed. The following have been already determined:—

Shooting will commence on the 23rd, and terminate on the 28th.

Anglo-Belgian prizes to be divided into two classes—one class for English Volun-