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Topics of the Week.

We congratulate Lieut.-Col. Philippe Landry, A.D.C., M.P. for Kent, N.B., on his appointment this week to the office of county court judge for Kent and Westmoreland, vice Botsford, deceased. Col. Landry will be missed in Parliament, where he was recognized as a well-informed and painstaking member, and his views on any question under discussion were always heard with respectful attention. For five years Col. Landry has held the command of the 61st Battalion, which he will doubtless now resign, and he was one of the commanding officers lately honoured by the Governor-General by appointment as honorary A.D.C. to His Excellency.

The National Rifle Association having decided to allow one sighting shot at each range in future, and "any" position at distances of 600 yards and upwards, it will now be in order for the council of the D.R.A. to consider the advisability of similarly changing our regulations. There has not been much enthusiasm in Canada about the back position, but there is a lingering affection for sighting shots.

A wholesome rule of the Dominion Rifle Association requires that every competitor in certain matches, including the Wimbledon team competition, shall not only be a militiaman, but shall have put in his annual drill. It is notorious that some of those who never fail to appear at the prize meetings, scarcely ever see the inside of a drill hall or venture within a district camp, yet all produce certificates duly signed. As the result of complaints lodged, two of those having won places on this year's team have been found not to have been entitled to the certificates upon which they shot, and have therefore been struck off the team roster. Only a few days ago the second case was made public, the explanation for the wrong certificate being that the drill had been performed by another man of the same name! If rifle shooting honours are to be set apart as a reward for active militiamen, greater precaution should be taken to see that none participate in them without proper title.

The Bisley team is yet incomplete, for during the past week one member has been disqualified and another—Pte. Brown of the 59th—has refused his place. Capt. Bishop of the 63rd and Capt. Gray of the Governor General's Foot Guards were offered the vacancies thus created. The former has not yet been heard from, and the latter has accepted. The waiting man is now Capt. O'Grady of the 43rd, who now stands thirtieth on the list. There have been indications that one or two who have accepted will yet have to back out, so that those next in order would do well to be prepared for the opportunities that may be offered them.

Entries for the Military Rifle League competitions are not coming in at all as they should, those having the matter in hand for the several battalions paying little attention to the requests to promptly forward their entries in order to save trouble and confusion at the last moment. A note received from the Treasurer, just too late for insertion in last issue, said that only these five entries had then been received: Halifax Garrison Artillery, Thirteenth Battalion, Ninetieth Battalion; F Division Mounted Police, Prince Albert; Twenty-first Battalion. The first match takes place on the 17th May, just a month from to-day.

A Prince Edward Island correspondent writes to ask information respecting the badges to have been awarded the team victorious in the telegraphic rifle match last fall, which match, it will be remembered, was won by the Islanders. The Montreal Rifle Association had charge on that occasion, and we trust the Secretary will be good enough to let us know, for our correspondent's benefit, when the badges may be expected.

The Halifax *Critic* recalls with regret the fact that there was no general distribution of decorations to commanding officers who took part in the suppression of the Riel uprising of 1885, and suggests a C.M.G. to each as a "cheap gratification." The honour would indeed have been cheapened by such a wholesale distribution. For our part, we do not feel that the commanding officers have been at all deprived of their due. The duty the troops were called upon to perform was not of a character demanding any special decoration of the nominal leaders. Canadians, however, have a just right to feel proud that upon danger threatening, such a large body of men volunteered for active service and went into the field with all ranks prepared to lay down life itself if necessary. Now, in time of peace, we should not neglect to make provision that if ever the militia are again put to the test, there shall be more substantial compensation awarded—not to the higher officers, but rather to the rank and file, who bear the brunt of the hard work and get a very small share of the glory, whilst the daily pay allowed them constitutes but a fractional part of the loss of salary or wages entailed by their military service. The least the stay-at-homes can gracefully do, is to see that those who go out to fight their country's battles are not necessarily out of pocket through their enlistment.