

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—We notice in your paper that interest is beginning to wake up about the "League." Having the purest of motives in regard to rifle shooting, I trust it will not seem like presumption in suggesting a few things to assist in the coming season's competitions. In the first place I would say that the teams (as last year) be ten men. It is impossible in cities of small population and in rural districts (except in a few cases), to get together a larger team who could hope to cope with more favoured comrades in our big places. It is also undesirable to have teams of more than ten competitors, because the great interest that now exists from ocean to ocean (emanating and radiating of course from the bull's eye Winnipeg!) would be split into two factions should there be two classes, say teams of ten and also of say twenty men. I think the great incentive to shooting is the unity and evenness of aim, the perfect equality of the participants, and the unfettered and perfect freedom of the course from the greenhorn to the Queen's prizeman, and I am also strongly convinced that any bolstering or artificial means used to assist the beginner not only detracts from the glory of success, but in a great measure deters him from success itself. A man is never strong who needs a stimulant except it be emulation, therefore let the teams be ten men, let them stand equal. Then hurrah for first place.

I would also suggest that the markers be chosen outside of the corps of the team. This is, I think, the great point in this match. The rifleman at the butts is largely at the mercy of the marker at the targets, and the markers should have no sympathy with the firer. As he can make or mar any score, he should be chosen for his intelligence and his character, and be remunerated for his services through the officer who superintends the shooting; also that a special prize be given the marker who gives the greatest satisfaction to the executive of the League, the said officer giving each marker a percentage of marks for efficiency. Then, brethren of the rifle, let us entertain the greatest respect and confidence in one another. I believe firmly that in no pastime the world over does there exist the purity that we have in our favourite sport. Our competitions in the League introduce the names of the crack shots of Canada; and our great yearly gathering at Ottawa bring together in friendly rivalry as fine a lot of fellows as ever found a bad cartridge in their ammunition. We venture the assertion that our Dominion matches is a convention at which a consensus of opinion is expressed unsurpassed in the line of sports. The League is allied to our best shooting interests; it deserves our best encouragement. Let our teams of last year and many more get ready for the coming season, and make this a more successful year than any preceding one.

It was my intention to say a few words about the situation of shooting affairs here, but my pen gets rather wayward sometimes and walks more than was intended, but rifle shooting is a pleasant topic, and an engaging one. I see a requisition is going around calling a general meeting of all who are interested in rifle shooting, to be held in the City Hall here on the 17th inst. You may take my word for it, Winnipeg is not to be held back in shooting this summer. We have the stuff here to make this place a shooting centre, and shame to us if we don't do it. Pardon my long, windy effusion, Mr. Editor, it is often the way with

BUCKSHOT.

Winnipeg, February 6th, 1891.

REGIMENTAL.

Staff-Sergt. Thos. Mitchell, of the Tenth Royal Grenadiers, is reported to have in contemplation a change in residence from Toronto to Vancouver, B.C., on his return from Bisley this year. "Tom" will be greatly missed in Toronto, where he has many warm friends in every corps; but all will agree that the Pacific Province affords great opportunities for men of his energy and ability.

Preparations are being made for a great military parade at Berlin, Ont., for the Queen's Birthday, when it is expected the Thirteenth Battalion of Hamilton will visit that town. They will reach Berlin on Saturday evening, 23rd May, have church parades on Sunday, and on Monday there will be a parade and grand field day sham fight. A local committee are arranging for a programme of sports. A feature of this will be a sword and lance combat (mounted) between Prof. Fred Brooker, late Trumpet Major 5th Royal Lancers, and Prof. Bell, late of an Imperial regiment of Dragoons.

The non-commissioned officers of the Halifax Garrison Artillery participated in a sleigh drive on the 3rd inst. Five four-horse teams, headed by the band of the corps, left the drill shed at 2.30, and after going through the principal streets took the upper road for Wilson's, Bedford, arriving there about 5 o'clock. The drive up was enlivened by songs. After a warming up Host Wilson announced that dinner was ready, and at 7.30 o'clock the boys sat down to a bountifully supplied table. The table was beautifully decorated. In addition to flowers, etc., the following silver cups were displayed: Quebec Challenge Cup and Montreal Cup; the Gun trophy, won at Quebec in 1884, Jubilee Cup, won at Halifax in 1887, and the trophy won in the Canadian Rifle League matches, and which was displayed for the first time, all having been won by the brigade. After the toast list had been gone through with the company repaired to the various rooms of the hotel and engaged in games. At 12.15 the teams were again on the road and arrived in the city in good time, without a mishap occurring. Those present voted the drive one of the most successful they had ever attended. The committee who had the affair in hand was composed as follows: Brigade Sergt. Major Gibbs (chairman), Battery Sergt.-Major Case, Battery Sergt. Major Kiddy, Sergt. Marshall, Sergt. Frawley, Sergt. Broadhurst, Sergt. Doane, Corp. Marshall.

THE GRENADIERS.

The sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers, who have been having card parties in their comfortable mess room once a fortnight during the last two months, thinking a change desirable decided to have a smoking concert, which took place on Thursday evening, 5th inst., and was, considering it was their first attempt at anything of that sort, and that the performers were all members of the regiment, a great success. Major Mason, Capt. Trotter, Capt. and Adj. McLean, Lieuts. Cameron and Stimson, of the Grens, and Lieut. Windeyer, of the 36th Battalion, were present, and the sergeants with their friends mustered in full force and filled the large room to the door. Quartermaster-Sergeant Dale, who has been laid up with inflammatory rheumatism for the last four months, made his appearance for the first time since his illness and received a hearty welcome from the boys. The programme, which was divided into two parts, consisted of songs, recitations, clog dancing and instrumental music, the first and last songs being regimental ones, and sung by Sergeant Scully and Drum Sergeant Bewley respectively. Between the parts, the secretary, Sergeant Brooks, read letters of regret for non-attendance from Col. Dawson, who was dining with His Excellency the Governor-General, Capt. Greville Harston, Capt. Hay, Capt. Tassie, Mr. Barlow Cumberland and others. Sergt.-

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