

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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No. 16, of 27th September, 1889.

Topics of the Week.

Capt. G. Douglas Young, of D Company, Infantry School Corps, London, Ont., authorizes the MILITIA GAZETTE to state that that company accepts the telegraphic match challenge of Major Peters, C Battery, R.C.A., published last week.

We hope to be in a position to publish the scores made by the different batteries in the Field Artillery competition at an early date. The Secretary is waiting the report of the Woodstock field battery, on receipt of which the result of the competition will be published in detail.

To commemorate the great telegraphic match to be fired on Saturday of this week, and for which teams from all parts of Canada have entered, it is intended to present a badge to each member of the winning team. A Montreal artist is now at work preparing a design for these badges.

A Montreal correspondent submits a new scheme for comment by readers of the MILITIA GAZETTE: "It is proposed," he says, "to get up a Canadian Military Rifle League for next summer's shooting, the conditions to be something like this: A certain number of matches to be fired throughout the season, on Saturday afternoons, by the clubs in the league, and the club winning the most matches to be considered the champions; and receive either badges or a cup in token of their victory." Such a scheme, he points out, would have to be arranged before spring, in order that the clubs participating might frame their season's programmes to suit; and an expression of opinion from shooting men is invited.

The latest appointment to the permanent force is that of Lieut. A. E. Carpenter, of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, to a lieutenancy in the Infantry School Corps. In the General Orders, it is stated that his appointment is for five years only. Why a limit has been prescribed is not stated, but the notice is understood to signify an intention to make future appointments for periods likewise limited. The change is in our opinion not a commendable one; for it will certainly not increase the interest nor improve the efficiency of the officers to feel that at the end of five years service they are apt to be superseded by others having greater political influence. Not only will they have little or no incentive to study the higher branches of the military art, but they will have to divert their attention sufficiently from military matters to keep up with the progress of the age in whatever walk in civil life they formerly pursued, and would have to re-enter upon quitting the military service.

Since the subject was brought up at the Dominion Rifle Association competitors' meeting there has been not a little discussion concerning the proposed change in the distribution of the Government grants to rifle associations. It was represented to the meeting that the Government contemplated discontinuing the grants to the smaller local rifle associations, and entrusting the money instead to the district associations, and a resolution was passed adverse to such a change, and favouring even a greater subdivision of the grants. It turns out that this is exactly the change proposed, the member who raised the discussion not having an accurate idea of the contents of the circular sent by the Militia Department to the commanding officers throughout the country. This circular asked for expressions of opinion on a suggestion to discontinue the grants to the district associations and confine them to the regimental and others strictly military in character. The opinion of the Department is that the money given to other than military associations is not always spent in the manner best calculated to promote the development of rifle shooting either in the force or country generally. But there are some associations under civilian control performing really useful work, and we would suggest that in place of cutting off the grant from all alike the Department should scan the last annual reports presented by these associations, and base its action on the result.

The *Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette* is displeased at the imputation of selfishness on the part of the English riflemen, made by some of the Massachusetts marksmen. Says that paper: "The Massachusetts Militia team which competed at Wimbledon this year of course received a hearty welcome on arriving at New York. We can only take their word for it that they enjoyed themselves over here, and fully appreciated whatever hospitality was shown to them. Brother Jonathan is probably an adept at saying pretty things with no meaning, but we were hardly prepared for the utterances which the *Boston Record* puts into the mouth of Major Frost. It is stated that the members of the team are not bragging over their successes, but the gallant Major is reported to have said that 'the English marksman is supremely selfish, and always works for his own score, not trying to support his companions on the team. The Americans could put the whole team on the target after a single shot by the man who led, and this was the secret of the quick rally in the first matches, although but two sight shots were allowed each man. The Americans were truly a team, the Englishmen an aggregation of individual sharpshooters. That is the sum of it. It is a pretty lesson in national harmony.' There may be some truth in the remarks, and we are, and always have been, willing to take hints from over the water, but it can hardly be said that it was a pretty speech to make, if it ever was made." It is just possible that Major Frost may have been deceived by appearances. The English rifleman, if apparently selfish, is perhaps not so intentionally. It may be that the art of team shooting is not sufficiently practised. In Canada it has scarce yet been discovered, and thus our team contests lose a great deal of their interest.