

venience, be designated the old pattern. The total length of the stock and barrel is 4 ft. 4½ in., or, with the sword-bayonet, 5 ft. 1 4-5 in. the length of the bayonet being 1 ft. 4-11-16 in. The rifle, and magazine uncharged, weigh together, 5 lb. 8 oz., the latter when empty 4½ oz., when filled 13 oz. The magazine is constructed to carry eight cartridges, and can be refilled either in position or detached. Two sets of sights are provided, the ordinary rear sight is graduated up to 1,900 yards. There are also extreme range sights, which provide for ranges from 1,800 to 3,500 yards. The breech action is worked by what is technically understood as the bolt principle, the action being protected by a cover when not in use. The rifle may, at the will of the soldier, be used as a magazine or single loader.

#### THE HYTHE MUSKETRY COURSE.

Some seventy officers of volunteers have accepted the offer of the authorities to attend the Special Volunteer Course of one month at the School of Musketry, Hythe. All grades are represented, but naturally the lieutenants form the bulk of the officers attending, as it was mainly intended for the junior ranks. Our crack shots, whether with the match rifle or the Martini, are well represented. Captain Mellish and Lieutenant Freemantle are representative members of the English eight, Captain Barnett of the Irish eight; and the Martini champions are ably represented by Lieut. Davidson and Captain Young of the Scotch twenty, and Surgeon Lowe of the English twenty, whilst one of the lieutenant-instructors is that well known member of the English eight known to all as Lieut. Dutton-Hunt. None of the officers attending are bringing their own rifles, the rule of the school being that the ordinary rack rifle be served out to all alike, and naturally a certain amount of practice will take place with these weapons in order to ascertain their peculiarities and also how they are sighted.

The whole of the officers are unanimous in their appreciation of the great courtesy and kindness with which they have been received, and, in fact, the school may be looked upon as one large happy family, where, after duty, both instructors and instructed meet on a footing of perfect equality. The feeling of regard to the staff is in no way lessened by the fact that they have all given up their winter leave to afford the benefit of their experience to their volunteer comrades, and, judging by the opinion expressed by the staff, they, on their part, by no means regret the leave they have given up, as they have rarely met such an enthusiastic and attentive body of officers to instruct.

Up to the end of last week the course of instruction comprised the following:—Firing exercise: Two lessons of half-an-hour each on parade, morning and afternoon; judging distance drill and practice, both on men and objects, and also by sound; four lectures on care of arms, etc., and four on the science of musketry, and on firing at fixed and moving objects; practical lessons with the Gardner, Nordenfolt, and Maxim guns; aiming drill and practice; the new magazine rifle; and blank firing, independent and volleys. This is not a bad programme for five days' work, and from the foregoing it will be seen that the day's work from 9.30 till 12.30 and from 2 till 5, is calculated to cover a pretty considerable extent of subjects.

Colonel Tongue, the Commandant, vacates his appointment at the end of the special course, and his successor will be Colonel Slade of equipment fame; whilst it is expected that Captain Bagnall, the popular Captain-Instructor of the Right Wing, will shortly be leaving to take over the duties of Musketry Inspector of the Dublin District. He is a capital Martini shot, and altogether a first-rate all-round man, and the Irish capital will find a man exactly to their taste. Major Gouldie, the equally popular Captain-Instructor of the Left Wing, has not been long at the school, but he also will probably shortly be sent to Cork. Lieutenant Martin, one of the Lieutenant Instructors, has just started the new Musketry School at Aldershot, and Lieut. De la Bere, the latest addition to the staff, has only recently gone through a stiff course of signalling, so he is not letting the grass grow under his feet. Lieut. Dutton-Hunt we have already referred to with regard to his shooting, which is not excelled by his genial good nature and scientific acquirements. As the course proceeds, we shall continue to give details and records of the shots made. The school is so unquestionably a success that there is little doubt it will become an annual course, so that the information afforded in our columns will doubtless prove of interest to the force generally in view of that eventuality.—*United Service Gazette.*

A new 3.6-inch B. L. field mortar, the first of the kind built by the Ordnance Department of the U. S. army, has just been tested. Thirteen rounds were fired at Sandy Hook, twelve being simply powder tests. The thirteenth was for accuracy, and, it is reported, gave very good results. Elevated at an angle of 45 degrees, the shell was dropped within the limit contemplated, and the weapon worked smoothly and well. The same charge is used in this mortar as that prescribed for the 3.6-in. B. L. field gun.

#### The Quebec Rifle Association.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Province of Quebec Rifle Ass'n was held at the Brigade office, Montreal, on the 27th ult. Lt.-Col. Mattice, 5th military district, presided, and there were also present Lt.-Cols. Brosseau, 85th Battalion; Fraser, 8th Battalion, Quebec; Majors Radiger, Toronto Rifle Club; Campbell, P. W. R.; Roy, 6th military district; Captains J. S. Hall, B Battery, Quebec; Hood, 5th Royal Scots; Ibbotson, 43rd Battalion; Lieutenants Desbarats, Metropolitan Rifle Association, Ottawa; and the secretary, Major Blaiklock, and the treasurer, Lt.-Col. Martin. The following rifle associations had no representative present:—60th Battalion, Victoria Rifles, 6th Fusiliers, Montreal Garrison Artillery, Sherbrooke R.A., Governor-General's Foot Guards R. A., Victoria Rifle Club, Hamilton, 54th Battalion, Montreal R. A., Hemmingford R. A., and 52nd Battalion.

The secretary presented the twenty-first annual report, in which the Council congratulated the Association on the success of its operations during the past year, and thanks were tendered to the Governor-General, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Dominion and Provincial Governments and others who had contributed prizes for the annual competition. The annual prize meeting was held on the ranges at Cote St. Luc, where there were at present in position twenty second and third class targets, with the necessary firing points, but no marking discs. There was also a portion of a long range butt of 800 and 900 yds., with incomplete target frames and no discs. The drainage of the target pits in the short range butt, as well as the drainage of the whole range, was still defective. The programme of the matches was drawn up pretty much on the lines of that of the previous year, with the addition of the nursery series to the frontier match, and a nursery aggregate team match. It was suggested that there should be added to the prize list a still further attraction for the competitors who, while not nursery men, were still only intermediate shots. It was also suggested that a battalion team match for special prizes might be added to the present active militia match, in which the teams would be from 15 to 20 men each. The entries were very satisfactory, there being 33 teams and 1,826 individual entries, as against 33 team and 1,944 individual in the preceding year. The largest number of entries in any regular match was 153 in the frontier, against 152 in the association match last year, and 503 in the extra series (600 yards), as compared with 413 in the same match in 1888. The marking was done by men brought from Ottawa, no qualified persons being obtainable here at a reasonable rate, but the work was not done so satisfactorily as it should have been. The Council was of opinion that some means should be taken up by the Association to train markers during the season who would be available for the matches. There should be no difficulty about this, provided the different battalions would co-operate with the Association. At the annual matches the railway facilities were all that could be desired, and thanks were tendered the C. P. R. Company for the kind manner in which they met the desires of the Council. At the Dominion matches the province was well represented, and won a large proportion of the principal prizes, Pte. Burns of the Victoria Rifles being especially fortunate in obtaining the Governor-General's medal and \$250. In the provincial contest for the London Merchants' Cup, Quebec only took fifth place, about the worst showing ever made by the province. The Council strongly advocate the changing of the cast-iron rule which obliged the secretary to choose the team from the highest aggregate in the Martini matches at Ottawa, and suggested that in future the mode followed by Ontario should be adopted, and that the secretary with those members of Council present in Ottawa at the matches should pick the team which, in their judgment, would best represent the province. The report was adopted, as was also that of the treasurer.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, and resulted thus: Chairman of Council—Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G. Treasurer—Lieut.-Col. Martin. Secretary—Major Blaiklock. Finance Committee—Lieut.-Cols. Brosseau and Fraser and Major Bond. Auditors—Captains Fair and Ross.

Representatives to the D.R.A.—Lieut.-Col. Brosseau, Majors Bond and Blaiklock, and Captains Hood and Sims.

Vice-Patrons—The General Officer Commanding the Militia, Lieut.-Cols. Fletcher, C.M.G., Harwood, Hutton, Lyman, D'Orsonnens, Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Sir Geo. Stephen, Sir Donald Smith, Hon. Senator Thibaudeau, Hon. H. Mercier, Hon. J. Shehyn, Hon. Jas. McShane, Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, ex-Mayor of Montreal, Hon. Geo. A. Drummond, Messrs. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., A. T. Lepine, M.P., Andrew Allan, James Slessor, Hartland S. Macdougall, R. B. Angus, A. F. Gault, R. R. Grindley, Wm. Wier, J. Murray Smith, F. Wolferstan Thomas, Jos. Hickson, G. W. Stephens, Gilbert Scott, Hector Mackenzie, L. J. Forget, Duncan McIntyre, H. Montagu Allan, W. J. Buchanan, Geo. Hague, A. M. Crombie, Jacques Grenier and Robert Hamilton (Quebec.)

Executive Committee—Lieut.-Cols. Martin, Fraser, Miller and Bros-