

men who habitually practise with the Martini-Henry, it seems desirable that the D. R. A. should look forward to the gradual adoption of the same rifle for its matches. This is a question requiring serious consideration. On the one side we have the fact that our Militia are armed wholly with Sniders, and that the D. R. A. matches should be principally for their encouragement; on the other hand, it is almost hopeless to expect men who have to practise with one arm to take up another, completely strange to them, and compete with men accustomed to its use. The inclusion of this suggestion in the report will have, we hope, the good effect of bringing up at the annual meeting the desirability of either arming all the Militia with Martinis, or, at least, of bringing into service the 12,000 now in the country.

We have always felt that the association was not strongly enough supported by our officers, and have taken the trouble to analyze the list of members as published. To our surprise we find that an association spending annually over \$16,000 in encouraging rifle-shooting, can only muster 101 members, though there are 747 troops, batteries, or companies in the Dominion. The list includes 36 lieutenant-colonels, 14 majors, 20 captains, 5 lieutenants, the surgeon-major and two surgeons, and of the colonels, only fifteen are in command of regiments. The D.R.A. should have a membership of not less than a thousand, and it is, we consider, the duty of every field-officer to belong to it. The other day we heard the name of an officer mentioned as an aspirant to the Wimbledon team, who not only is not a member of the association, but, so far as we can learn, has never given one dollar towards its support.

The *Fredericton Capital*, commenting editorially upon our arguments against sending the schools west, says: "It is our belief that the 'Schools' and N. W. Mounted 'Police' constitute the regular army of Canada, and that the veil or disguise in their titles of 'Schools' and 'Police' should be dropped without delay. The former are in reality regular cavalry, artillery and infantry; and the latter wear the uniform of and are in all respects regular cavalry. While the withdrawal of the 'School' corps from their various headquarters would retard the granting of certificates, still the fact of sending off purely volunteer corps on active service, in preference, could not fail to act prejudicially on the reputation of the 'School' men as *professional* soldiers; and we are positive that the regulars are ready to assist at any fighting required of them, and will do nothing to deserve the title of 'School' or 'feather bed' soldiers."—Free discussion of the point will do no harm; all that we want to see is the scheme adopted that will be for the greatest good of the greatest number.

#### OBITUARY.

Colonel John Dyde, C.M.G., honorary Aide-de-camp to the Queen, died on Friday last at the advanced age of 90 years under most painful circumstances. While in a Montreal court of law giving evidence on behalf of his only son, accused, and since acquitted, of forgery, he fell dead in the witness box. To say that this sudden death was a shock to the whole community does not express the feelings of Col. Dyde's fellow citizens, for he was a man universally admired and respected, and exceptional action has been taken since his death to mark the appreciation in which he was held.

The deceased was born in Holstein, where his father was in business, during the reign of terror of 1795, and while young he saw many exciting scenes. The breaking out of the war of 1812 found the family in New York, whence they were compelled to go to Boston, where the Colonel witnessed the famous sea-fight between the Shannon and Chesapeake. Reaching Montreal the next year the boy began his long military career by joining the militia, in which he saw service before the close of the campaign. In 1817 he joined the North-west Company's service, and saw some exciting times in the North-west, being recalled by his father's death in 1818. In 1837 Colonel Dyde

acted as captain and adjutant of a militia regiment quartered in Quebec, and in 1838 became Quarter-master General there. In the fall of that year he came to Montreal at the head of a regiment, and in 1845 he organized the Montreal Light Infantry during the Oregon dispute. In the riot of 1850 he, as a magistrate, accompanied the troops. In 1855 he became the lieutenant-colonel of the Montreal Rifles, now the 1st Battalion Prince of Wales' Rifles, and in 1856 became the commandant of the military district of Montreal. In 1860 he was gazetted a full colonel. During the Trent affair his services were of the highest value. It was largely owing to his exertions that the Royal Scots, 6th Fusiliers and the 3rd Victorias were organized about this time. During the Fenian raid of 1866 he held the command of the 2nd Brigade of Volunteers, and his services were again of great value. In 1868 he was placed upon the retired list, when Sir George Cartier's Militia Act was passed; but he rendered good service again during the Fenian raid of 1870. In 1875 he received the decoration of C.M.G., for his many services on behalf of the Militia, and particularly for the part he took in repelling the Fenian raid of 1866. In 1879, on Her Majesty's birthday, he was further honored by receiving the appointment of A.D.C. to the Queen. Col. Dyde leaves a widow, whom he married in 1821, and four children.

His funeral on Monday, though without public or military ceremonies, was an exceedingly large and imposing one. Nearly all the officers of the brigade and many of the rank and file, as well as most of the leading citizens, were present, and Christ Church Cathedral was crammed. The edifice was profusely draped. The funeral service, which was a choral one, was conducted by Bishop Bond, assisted by Canon Ellecot, the rector, and several other city clergymen. The coffin was covered with the ensign.

#### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE D.R.A.

The Council in submitting the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Proceedings of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association feel it to be their first duty to tender the thanks of the Association to all its supporters, and especially,

To His Excellency the Governor-General, the Marquis of Lansdowne, for his liberal donation to the Prize Fund, and for the encouragement to rifle shooting, by his gift of silver and bronze medals to the several provincial rifle associations.

To the Government and Members of the House of Commons for the liberal grant voted to the Association at the last session of Parliament.

To the Hon. Minister of Militia and Defence, Sir Adolphe P. Caron, K.C.M.G., M.P., for his continued interest in the Association.

To Lt.-Colonel Ouimet for his donation of \$100 to the General Prize Fund.

To Major-General Sir Frederick Middleton, K.C.M.G., for his prize of \$50.

To the President and Directors of:

The Bank of Montreal for their 5th year's donation.		
The Bank of British North America	"	"
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	"	"
The Merchants' Bank of Canada	"	"
The Imperial Bank of Toronto	"	"
The Molson's Bank of Montreal	4th	"
The Bank of Hamilton	"	"
The Dominion Bank of Toronto	"	"
The Bank of British Columbia	"	"
The Hamilton Powder Company	"	"
The Canada Cotton Company	"	"

To Colonel Wilson, of Bannockburn, Scotland, for the gift of a handsome silver jug for competition amongst the marksmen of Canada, who had shot at Wimbledon.

To Mr. Steward, optician, 406 Strand, London, England, for the gift of a cup.

To the Canada Club of London, the thanks of the Association are also due for again presenting to the Wimbledon team a handsome silver cup as a prize for the highest aggregate score, which was won by Staff Sergeant Ashall, of the 2nd "Queen's Own Rifle" Battalion, Toronto.

It is to be hoped that the continued success of our marksmen at Wimbledon, (winning as they did last year, besides many other prizes, five places in the second and three in the third stage of the "Queen's," an achievement never before effected,) will convince the supporters of the Association that their aid has had good results, and will encourage them to continue the same in the future.