

efficient as might be required, and that would give confidence to the settlers and cause the rapid settlement of the country.

"By making such a settlement the Government would have all the force they would require in the country, and as it would be done in the way of settlement, our neighbors across the line could not say we were afraid of another Indian rising, and by such rumors bring settlers to their country instead of ours. The settlement I propose can be placed any where the Government think desirable and the land good."

The only question in all this seems to be whether settlers could be got willing to accept these somewhat onerous conditions, but the Colonel assures us that there is no doubt on that point, and that he has already more volunteers than he requires. We should imagine the Government would not hesitate to secure a large powerful military force at a mere nominal cost, and at the same time help to colonize the country, and we should also desire to point out that if this scheme, or any similar one, were adopted, there could not be a better time for inaugurating it than now, at the beginning of a new agricultural season, and when a certain amount of uneasiness as to the attitude of the Indians tends to render the settlers now in the country unsettled, and to prevent immigrants from choosing it as their future home.

A CANADIAN RIFLEMAN'S VIEWS OF AMERICAN MATCH RIFLE SHOOTING.

In our issue of the 29th December last we published a letter showing up what the writer considered the weak points of rifle target practice as at present generally conducted by our American cousins, this communication being to a certain extent a sequel to a previous letter from the same correspondent, ridiculing the "fads" of English riflemen. Our Boston contemporary, the *Rifle* (which is, by the way, the most neatly got up periodical on our exchange list) has published "Smith's friend's" letter in full, and makes some comment upon it, which we have much pleasure in reproducing, as this is one of those questions on which there cannot be too much discussion, provided it is friendly. The *Rifle* says:

There is much in the above statement which will greatly amuse not only the riflemen of Boston and vicinity, but of the entire country where shooting with the match-rifle is popular. Smith's friend, who sees the folly of rifle-shooting with a match-rifle, through the statement of his friend who came to Boston and heard somebody else tell about the manner some other fellows shoot, and through this slightly roundabout channel, has grasped the whole question and pointed out its absurdities in the above communication.

There is one point it would be well for such correspondents to be informed upon, which is the ability of a practical rifleman, skilful in the use of the match-rifle, to apply that knowledge to the crudy military arm, by which the strength of nations is so largely measured.

To illustrate our meaning we would call attention to the work performed by Mr. F. J. Rabbeth, who has probably fired as many shots from a match-rifle, such as Smith's friend calls fancy work, as any man in America. When the last international team was made up this gentleman contested for a place upon the team, and made, with a military arm, the highest average shooting made by any individual contesting. With a military arm at rest (on the skirmish line soldiers need a knowledge of rest-shooting) he has made the highest score ever made in America.

Another skilful rifleman is Charles W. Hinman, who seldom shoots at short range anything but a match-rifle. He shot on the last international team which contested with our British cousins at Wimbledon, and had the remainder of the team equalled his score the match would have resulted in a victory for the American team.

At the last meeting of the Massachusetts militia, competing with the picked riflemen of the State, this gentleman led with a score over all competitors.

We would also mention Mr. George F. Elisworth, one of the best and most enthusiastic match-rifle shooter, who probably has never fired a hundred shots from a military arm, recently borrowed one of these weapons, and before he had fired twenty shots scored 33 out of a possible 35, at the 200-yard range. Still another case is cited of J. B. Fellows, who recently scored 80 upon the standard American target, counting 47 out of 50 Creedmoor target; and this before he had fired a score of shots. Many other similar cases might be mentioned.

A visitor to Walnut Hill will frequently witness men who have never fired a shot from a military rifle, in their first trial surpass the soldier who had given much attention to practising with this arm, and scoring from 42 to 48 out of a possible 50, rarely going below the first figures. The same is doubtless true of all other clubs throughout

the country where the match-rifle is chiefly in use. In England and her possessions, most of the finest rifle shots belong to the military; in America, as a rule, the finest marksmen are civilians; but could a team be made up of picked men, noted for their skill with the match-rifle, from the clubs of East and West, we believe, with one hundred practice shots, they could be led on at victory at short range, with military arms, against any team the world could produce. The highest skill is necessary, to secure prominence with a match-rifle, and proficiency with this arm can readily be utilized in the use of the military rifle.

Our correspondent is not to be put down by these facts. We had scarcely received our copy of the *Rifle* before we received the following characteristic epistle from Smith's Friend:—

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Smith, of Kazubazua, drove in to-day in spite of the thermometer being down to 20° below zero, and called on me in a state of absolute despair. I managed to pacify him at last, and then learned that he had received from Boston a copy of the *Rifle* for February, in which some comments appear on the statements made in your paper some weeks ago anent the habit of shooting with fancy rifles in fancy positions at 200 yards which prevails to some extent south of 45°.

These statements were transferred squarely and fairly from the columns of the *Rifle*, and if there were "absurdities in the * * communication," such absurdities must not be charged to Smith, who is greatly pleased to learn that the editor of the *Rifle* acknowledges them to be such.

Smith is an out and out advocate for shooting with the rifle and ammunition served out to the militia of Canada, and at the ranges and targets determined and fixed by authority, because he believes that the object of practice is to make him proficient in the use of his weapon, and thus of service to his country. Smith is well aware that during the late trouble in the North-west the shooting done was principally at a shorter distance than 200 yards, and that no man was safe to stand and deliberately fire from the shoulder without endangering his life, and that all were obliged to obtain shelter and cover.

Smith acknowledges that the shots who are being celebrated in the *Rifle* may do good work with a military rifle, but states that his object in calling attention to the fancy weapons and positions used at Walnut Hill and other ranges was to show to his brother riflemen in Canada their absurdity from a practical and military standpoint.

In the January number of the *Rifle*, appeared a letter from Mr. James Duane, who is as bad as Smith, as he pokes fun at the system of loading, etc., in vogue, thus: "Now that we are in a fair way of adopting a common-sense target, would it not be well to adopt a common-sense cartridge to shoot at it!" The style of loading now quite generally in vogue, may be briefly described as follows: A patched bullet is inserted at the breech, and pushed into the rifling in front of the chamber by a stick of the proper length. The shell loaded with powder, usually confined by a wad, is pushed in after it, and the gun fired. What do we do next! Repeat this rather cumbersome operation! By no means. A grand general house-cleaning must first be inaugurated. Scrubbing brushes, mops, and an assortment of utensils more varied than a char-woman ever dreamt of, must be called into requisition. . . . I must stigmatize this style of loading as being utterly "impractical." I must, in this one instance at least, agree with Major Merrill, the great advocate of the muzzle-loader, when he claims that the breech loader so charged is but a servile imitation of the muzzle-loader." Farther on in his letter Mr. Duane states: I hope that in the near future all our Rifle Associations and Clubs will put at least one match on their programmes requiring "fixed ammunition. No cleaning allowed." Who can doubt that the encouragement thus afforded would be productive of immediate good results, and that very soon we should all be armed with that grand desideratum, an accurate rifle capable of shooting a compact water-proof cartridge an indefinite number of rounds without cleaning." Smith holds out his hand to Mr. Duane and says, "shake."

Smith wishes me to quote, as apropos to his idea of "Fads," the following from page 10 of the *Rifle* for February, being questions asked by a correspondent relative to scores made by J. A. Frye: "Will you please inform me the calibre of his rifle, charge of powder, and whether weighed or measured, and if measured, how measured; weight of bullet, and whether patched or grooved. Was bullet seated in shell or placed in barrel? Kind of front sight used, and whether coarse or fine; was rifle fired with or without cleaning? Did an interval elapse between each shot, so that the barrel of rifle was always at a uniform temperature, or were the shots fired in rapid succession? Was any allowance made for wind, and if so, was the allowance constant, so no further alteration had to be made to wind-gauge? What kind of rest is used—simply a muzzle-rest, which does not support the body in any way, or something which permits the shooter's right arm and side to lean upon some support?"

Verb. Sap.

SMITH'S FRIEND.

Now the long and short of the whole question is, that the *Rifle* and the GAZETTE are looking at it from different points of view, the former regarding rifle shooting as an amusement pure and simple, while we look upon the amusement as merely a means to an end, that end being the training of our militia in marksmanship. We are more anxious to see a hundred of our men tolerably good shots with the rifles that the Government have placed in their hands, than to see one of them a phenomenal shot with a rifle and cartridge built to suit himself. The present development of rifle shooting amongst the Americans is a legitimate outcome of their laudable desire to attain perfection in everything they undertake; but that very perfection, involving as it does a considerable expenditure of time in practice, and of money in procuring the best appliances, often specially made, necessarily limits the pastime to the few who can afford luxuries. These, we are willing to admit, would be found efficient with military weapons, but they are not a large enough fraction of the population to make the system a success, from a military