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MAKING up the programme of competitions for 1888, the executive committee of the Ontario Artillery Association appear to have ignored the garrison branch, taking their cue no doubt from the Dominion authorities. The prize money has been devoted so as to secure the best possible results in the field artillery, to which alone under present circumstances it can be profitably applied. A list of the prizes offered will be found in the report of the meeting, appearing on another page. It will be noticed that inducements are offered to both officers and men to take advantage of the course of instruction at the artillery schools. It is to be hoped that the government will act upon the resolution asking that the officers appointed to the Shoeburyness team shall be members of the Dominion Artillery Association. The objection to the government retaining the right of making these appointments would scarce be heard of if merit in the artillery service were considered more than political creed and influence.

WIMBLEDON common appears to have its shooting days numbered, and there seems to be an impression in many minds that the popularity of the National Rifle Association will so wane consequent on a removal to new quarters, that its very existence will be threatened. We are certainly not amongst those who hold this opinion, believing that rifle shooting as a pastime has reached such a pitch of popularity amongst the volunteers that the meeting would be a success held at any reasonably convenient place, though removal from Wimbledon will no doubt strip the meet of very enjoyable social features which have added not a little to the general interest in the past. But the possibility of an interruption in the series of meetings adds moment to the question which those eligible for places on this year's Canadian team for Wimbledon are called upon to answer before the 10th instant, by which time those of the first twenty who intend to go must notify the secretary of the association to that effect. Failing such acceptance the next in order will be called upon.

OF the twenty men who head the list, thirteen have already represented Canada at Wimbledon, three having been thrice across and four others twice each. The average number of new men on the Wimbledon teams has been about thirteen, the roster showing 211 individuals to have made up the seventeen teams of twenty men each which the Dominion Rifle Association has despatched to Wimbledon. Two men have been on the team five times each, these being one of the famed brothers, Pte. Thomas Mitchell, of the 13th, who first went in 1874, and the other Pte. James Riddle, of the 6th Fusiliers, who has made his five trips since 1878, in which and the following year he went

as a non-com. of the Montreal Garrison Artillery. The Dominion Rifle Association pays all the necessary expenses of the team from the time the members report at Quebec, until they disembark at that port after having made the trip. But the association takes no portion of the prize money, most of which is pooled and divided evenly amongst the members of the team, so that each is pecuniarily interested in the shooting of all the rest. The amount so divided last year reached £293, each man thus receiving upwards of \$70 prize money, besides which seven won individual prizes in extra matches, these amounting to £122, including the hundred pounds constituting the Prince of Wales' prize, which fell to the lot of Pte. A. Gillies of the 90th.

THE new Martini-Enfield rifle continues at least to hold its own in the race for recognition of superiority as a modern military weapon. One rival at least seems now helplessly distanced, this being the much talked of Lee, the latest concerning which is the following from the *A. & H. G. Gazette* of the 17th ult.: "The new magazine rifle recommended by the Small Arms Committee seems doomed to failure, if there is any truth in the rumour current that besides the accident reported as having happened to Major Lockyer, the modified Lee rifle burst up or was otherwise disabled twice last week." Even the Small Arms Committee seem to have been not all of the same opinion as to the merits of this rifle, as Sir Henry Halford, in his lecture before the Military Society at Aldershot, said "the magazine should not be used ordinarily," whilst Major Philip Smith, another of the committee, said that, "It should be used permanently, otherwise the spring joints will not bring up the cartridges," which statement seems to indicate that it would have been a very undesirable weapon.

NEITHER as an important political factor, nor as a pleasant and expeditious route to the East, has the Canadian Pacific Railway been as yet sufficiently appreciated, is the conclusion arrived at by the *Admiralty and Horse Guards' Gazette*, which in its issue of the 24th March thus refers to the road: "The great importance of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as affecting the defence of the British Empire, has as yet hardly received the attention which it deserves. It is, however, satisfactory to note that the naval authorities have recognized it as having an important bearing on the manning and repairing of our ships in the Pacific—Esquimalt is now to be used as a repairing station, and the crews necessary for recommissioning ships will be conveyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway direct to Esquimalt. At the present time there is not sufficient dockyard accommodation, but this is to be increased and that there will be a large saving under the new system is certain, and relief crews will get there *via* Canada in less than half the time taken at present. The line must have an important bearing on the conveyance of troops in the event of any troubles in the East, while, as soon as the new steamers now being constructed to run from Vancouver Island to various ports in Japan, China and elsewhere are completed, the Canadian route will doubtless be selected as preferable to the Suez Canal. Both as an important political factor and a pleasant and expeditious route to the east, the Canadian Pacific Railway has not, as yet, been sufficiently appreciated."