

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Third Year.
VOL. III, No. 10.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER, 1887.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
Single Copies Five Cents.

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Comment and Criticism.

THE Dominion Artillery Association's competition, open to the garrison batteries of the Dominion, is this week in progress at the Island of Orleans, below Quebec. Full particulars of the prize winning scores and other details of the meeting will appear next week.

SUPPLEMENTARY to the scores published in last issue, of the matches completed during the first two days of the Dominion Rifle Association prize meeting, we this week present to our readers a detailed report of the subsequent proceedings. This will be found much more complete than anything that has appeared or could have been expected to be published in the daily press, no trouble having been spared to secure all the details likely to be of interest to the competitors and our readers in general.

IN point of attendance, the meeting was the most successful ever held on Rideau range. The greatest number of competitors in any one match this year was 351, the highest figure ever reached here, and an increase of 29 over last year's, then also the highest to date. It is highly gratifying to note the steadily increasing interest thus shown to be taken in the competitions of the association, an increase which no doubt will continue so long as there is presented a prize list so liberal and attractive as that of this year, when the money prizes showed an advance of nearly \$750 over the largest amount ever offered previously. That with such an unexpectedly large attendance the meeting should have been conducted as smoothly as it was, is greatly to the credit of those to whom its management was entrusted.

A LARGE share of the credit for this happy result is due to the painstaking secretary of the association, Lt.-Col. Bacon, whose arrangements were very complete in every respect. Mention of his name will not appear invidious to anyone who, having a knowledge of the numberless details left to be attended to by the secretary, realizes the extent of his responsibilities. The statistical officer and his staff were well up in their work, and issued the prize lists with a promptitude which earned the gratitude of all in expectation of seeing their names upon them. And to add to the general happiness, the treasurer was early in attendance with a well filled cash box, the contents of which he apparently took great pleasure in distributing to the claimants. There were no vexatious delays about the extra series entry office—buying a ticket being in fact simplicity itself compared with the task of getting an opportunity to shoot it. The range officers gave general satisfaction, and though a complaint has appeared in a daily paper of a "flagrant case of checking" of a competi-

tor who was a lieutenant-colonel by a range officer who was a lieutenant simply, it seems to us that a well regulated lieutenant-colonel should not leave himself open to be checked by a range officer of any rank.

THE extra series matches were the weak point of the meeting. The accommodation was utterly inadequate, and had the proverbial Job been a competitor, even his patience must have been sorely taxed in waiting an opportunity to shoot. Particularly so if he had wandered off to the far distant riverside sandpit where the butts for the 800 and 900 yards targets were situated. There were only two targets, and these could in the week be operated for about thirty or thirty-five hours at the most. Yet two distinct matches were to be fired here, unlimited entries for which were to be allowed the 350 competitors. A simple arithmetical calculation would have shown that if all the competitors chose to enter in both matches there would barely be time for each to fire once only, allowing five pairs to a target per hour. It seems to have become an absolute necessity that greater target accommodation should be provided.

IT is a pity that the late hour at which Major Delamere brought up the subject of allowing unlimited team entries from the same corps in the military matches should have prevented a full discussion taking place. There is a very great deal which might be urged in favor of this proposition, the strongest argument perhaps being the excellence of the practice the militia would have in preparing themselves for these matches. It is unfair to the large body of the competitors to keep them idle on the range for a whole afternoon while one-fifth engage in a series of competitions from participation in which the remaining four-fifths are debarred. At Toronto a few weeks ago the same subject was brought up at the annual meeting of the members of the Ontario Rifle Association, and a resolution recommending that the number of entries from any one corps be unlimited, was carried at that meeting. The Quebec association has already adopted the principle.

THE committee appointed at the competitors' meeting to wait upon the Minister of Militia to urge upon him that the Canadian force be armed with the Martini rifle, did not have the proposed interview. Why, is not exactly known. Probably upon reflection the older heads of the committee found that they could not conscientiously carry out the bidding of the resolution. Had they waited upon the Minister to ask, not that the Martini entirely replace the Snider, but that the supply of the former now in the stores should be issued to the city corps and those of the rural battalions who would make good use of them, for practice at the longer ranges, then their request would have been a reasonable one, and properly pressed might have had some chance of being granted. Why should these Martini's be kept in store until they become obsolete?

THE late hour at which the London Merchants' Cup Match was fired no doubt had the effect of making the scores considerably lower than they would have been had the light been good for 600 yards. At