

took the words down at the time and can give date and particulars. The truth is that the decision in November, 1888, to adopt a .303 barrel, only, prevented any further desire upon their part to convert the existing stock of Martinis. I succeeded by May, 1888, in making a satisfactory conversion, in spite of every official obstacle which I found they piled up in my way, and in June, 1888, they decided to convert some of the Government Martinis and issued them to me, and directed me to make some alterations to suit the committee, and in an official letter from the "Horse Guards" (not the War Office this time) promised to pay all expenses. This took until November, 1888, when I asked for some money, having expended in all some £2,380 sterling, or \$11,900; part of this money, say £700, or \$3,500, was advanced to me on the strength of these official letters by the Maxim Nordenfolt Co. I then asked for pay, as I had the verbal promise of the Director-General of Artillery that I had only to put in the vouchers to obtain it. Then I found to my consternation that he said he had exceeded his authority in authorizing such an expenditure without higher financial authority, and I tried in vain, by application and through members of Parliament asking questions in the House of Commons, to obtain justice, and in March, 1889, I was obliged to return here "without receiving one cent." I left a power of attorney to receive money with the President of the Maxim Nordenfolt Company, so that they might receive their £700 advanced; and during the last twelve months frequent despatches from the Governor-General-in-Council have been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to try and obtain a fulfilment of the War Office and Horse Guards, "official promises to pay." They now pretend that they have settled with the Maxim Nordenfolt Company's President for £700, and I am told privately that this company received a large order for Maxim guns to square them.

The Director-General of Artillery being, I hear, the brother-in-law of Lord Salisbury, the Premier, they were doubtless anxious to save him, and so I am not to get one cent, and being only a "poor devil of a Colonist," what does it matter if I am ruined and unable to get a berth and left to get a living as best I can, having given up, as I said, my good appointment to do the work for them on the faith of their official promises!

I must say that I do not yet know if they pretend that they settled for both the War Office order and the Horse Guards order, and as my recollection of the power of attorney is that it only covered the former and not the latter, I shall fight "for justice" as long as I can stand. And I fully believe that if H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief had his own way I should yet be properly treated; also, I happened to meet, just before I left London, a certain eminent person who told me that some time previously (two months before I heard of it, I believe) I had been recommended for a C.M.G., and that it only waited our Minister of Militia's endorsement; but then it never received that endorsement.

Yours truly,
C. GREVILLE-HARSTON.

THE RIFLE LEAGUE PROGRAMME.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have followed with interest the ideas of your several correspondents on the subject of the League, and the changes recommended by some of them as to the number of matches, strength of teams, class of the same, and change of ranges for the coming season.

I heartily concur in the proposal of five matches instead of seven, it is quite enough for a season. Many good shots would be pleased by this reduction in time and expenditure.

I am in favour of leaving the strength of teams the same as last year. If the number is raised to 15 or 20, many

battalions will not enter a team at all. The expense would be too burdensome. And I do not believe in class firing in the League. It is meant for a test of skill between regiments. Let all be placed as last year on the same footing. And regiments that choose to enter a second or more teams well and good. This mode will debar no one. Whatever changes are made in the ranges, let 600 yards not be thrown out.

I heartily concur in the idea of putting the marking beyond a doubt.
HOTSPUR.

CIVILIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The undersigned is daily on receipt of letters advocating the admission into the League of teams from Civilian Rifle Associations who use the military rifle. When the League was first projected, it was intended to allow teams from militia corps, civilian associations, or retired officers to enter, but for various reasons (the principal one being "creep before walking") it was decided for the season of 1890 to confine it to militia corps. Now, as the object of the League is "to encourage and boom the pastime of military rifle shooting," I do not see why any grave objection should be taken to enthusiastic civilians or retired officers entering under teams from Village, Town, City, or County Rifle Associations. That retired officers should be debarred from taking part in these interesting competitions solely because they do not see their way clear to still continue to be members of the militia force—perhaps after years of faithful service and considerable expense, their business does not allow of their remaining members—seems rather a shabby way of treating them. Of course it is not to be expected that the Militia Department will supply *them* with "free ammunition," but I understand that they are willing to enter and pay for their ammunition. Now, that the League is in good working order, it may just as well have two or three thousand competitors as five hundred. It would certainly make the competition more interesting, and I think boom military rifle shooting to a greater degree. I intend, therefore, to move at the final meeting of the Council of the League, the following motion: "That Village, Town, City, or County, Civilian Rifle Associations (using Snider rifle), be allowed to enter teams in the League at the usual entrance fees, &c., on the understanding that said associations supply their own ammunition, and that a prize list composed of the team entrance fees of said associations be made up for competition among association teams."

W. R. PRINGLE,
Toronto, 20th Feb., 1891. Secretary of League.

A NORTH-WEST RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The success of the Militia League last year appears to be appreciated by the Manitobans, as a North-West League is about to be formed here on the basis of the C. M. L., with alterations to suit local exigencies. The teams will likely be five men and the competitors *unrestricted* to any association, military or civilian, or both. It has been found that shooting as a pastime, while it offers splendid opportunities in the way of association, and in the pursuit of health, as well as a fair road to fame, has not been inculcated to that extent which is not only advisable but essential in our Western land, and measures are being taken by the shootists themselves—all honor to them—to foster and stimulate Canada's finest pastime.

I think it will be conceded that no country on the face of the round earth offers such natural advantages as