

days there prevailed considerable excitement on the subject of fires, and the sequence was that the already small meeting soon became much smaller and was finally adjourned, *sine die*; and judging from appearances it is probable that the Captain will think a good deal before he again risks his chances of getting a good audience in Hamilton.

FROM LONDON, ONT.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Our first District Rifle Match inaugurated under the auspices of Lt. Col. Taylor, D. A. A. G., and Lt. Col. Shanly, of the Volunteer Artillery, Commandant here, commenced on the 5th inst., and continued the three following days, as reported in your last impression. The weather, for the lateness of the season, was favorable, that is, dry, but high and gusty winds were prevalent, interfering much with precision in firing. It might have been reasonably expected that the limited time afforded for preparation, and the newness of such an effort amongst us, would have militated against its prosperity, but instead, the efforts of the central committee were immediately and practically endorsed. Numerous representatives from the different Battalions throughout the District were present, and to add *clat* to the occasion, over 150 of Her Majesty's troops were in attendance. We venture nothing in stating that this has been the most successful volunteer tournament of this or any other season in Canada—successful as regards the aggregate amount of prizes offered—the interest it elicited from those whom it was intended to benefit—the large attendance, and the general results accruing.

The timely issue of the Snider Rifle contributed largely to the effect; every one appeared anxious to test its *qualities* with its *facilities* in so far as time and opportunity would permit, and however theories differed when commencing, at the end all concurred as to its general efficiency.

The average scoring, although creditable, would have been largely increased had an opportunity been possible for the authorized target practice prior to the meeting, as the majority present (Regulars excepted) never handled the rifle to be able to judge of its capacity, so that our tournament was but a trial of the arm rather than an exhibition of the skill of the volunteer. However, all things considered, the shooting showed a result equal to that which has under similar circumstances been effected by the muzzle-loader. The high trajectory of the breech-loader presenting the projectile for a longer period to the action of the wind, is no doubt unfavorable to precision; nevertheless the comparative result did not appear to be affected thereby. This may be owing to its being almost free from recoil. It is well known that the strong recoil of the unconverted rifle rendered the soldier unsteady, and consequently his shooting was not so

good as it would otherwise have been. Therefore it may be said that the inferiority of the breech loader in one respect, is compensated by its superiority in another. The breech mechanism of the rifles worked admirably without exception; no part of any got out of order, and no "miss fire" was reported. At the request of Lieut. Col. Taylor a meeting of officers was held to obtain their views as to the feasibility of an annual recurrence of the match, as also their opinion in reference to the Adjutant General's circular regarding a Dominion Rifle Association.

The former was settled in the affirmative, and an executive composed of members from all the Battalions was appointed. The idea promulgated in the latter was thoroughly endorsed, a motion to that effect being carried. Delegates were selected to represent the interest of this District at a general Provincial meeting, and our own association pledged to become a branch on its adoption.

Taking advantage of so many of his command being together, the District Staff Officer, ever on the alert to increase their facilities for knowledge, introduced a novel but instructive feature into the programme. Procuring the services of a first class graduate of Aldershot, cooking ranges of the most modern class were built, and their construction was fully and carefully explained to the evident delight of inquirers, who wondered how closely the indoor appliances for preparing food could be imitated in the field. In its simplicity and practicality lies its beauty. Easily erected, compact in form, requiring little fuel, and free from smoke or cinders, it offers camp advantages which no volunteer once possessed of would choose to forego.

To sum up: the originators and conductors of the match have deservedly received the encomiums of every one present at it, an honorable spirit of rivalry has sprung up amongst us who were once strangers in person, which we hope will result in their being two marksmen where now there is but one.

I am just in time to state that Lieut. Col. Hawley, 60th Rifles; Lieut. Col. Harenc, 53rd Regt., and Lieut. Col. Taylor, D. A. A. G., have arranged another match to take place on Wednesday, 20th inst., between twenty five each from the regiments of the two former and twenty-five volunteers from the District of the latter.

L. L. I.

FROM BELLEVILLE.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

There is a great dearth of Military news in this place. The barracks for the accommodation of Her Majesty's troops are rapidly approaching completion, and it is understood that three companies of the Rifle Brigade will be quartered here next week. The Armory and Drill Shed of the 15th Battalion, and also that used by No. 1 Co., 49th Batt., have been taken and fitted up for soldiers.

A block of very fine buildings at the entrance to the town, and opposite the upper bridge has been secured for Sergeants' Quarters, and a range of dwellings on the Kingston Road for married men. A brick building on Pinnacle street, near the Dafos House, has also undergone considerable repair, and is now ready for the Main Guard, Quarter-masters stores, offices and kitchen. The residences of Mrs. Benjamin and Mrs. Smart, have been secured; the former for the Officers' Quarters, and the latter for the Hospital. When completed there will be sufficient room for 400 men and officers, and the accommodation will be second to none. The Drill Room of the 15th having been taken for the soldiers, puts a stop to all drill this winter on any very extensive scale. The Town Hall is now used for the purpose, but is not sufficiently large to permit of any thing beyond Squad Drill and the Manual and Platoon Exercise, which even recruits soon get tired of, consequently we may expect to wither down till spring. The Town Council have granted £1000 towards a Drill Shed, on the condition that it shall not be asked for any more till next year, and have directed a committee to set apart land for the purpose. Although late, this is a step in the right direction, and if the Government will only appropriate double the amount we may expect good and sufficient accommodation for the nine companies of volunteers in this Town.

Regimental Order No. 1 of the 22nd of October, sets apart Monday in each week for companies Nos. one and two, Tuesday for three and four, and Wednesday for five and six, with target practice on Friday. The 15th have not yet received the Snider Enfield, but expect to have them this week. The fact of their having the Peabody, I suppose, is the cause of the delay.

MILITARY.

FROM GRIMSBY.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Below I send you the score of No. 7 Company, 19th Battalion, the second practice, on the 9th inst., of Co. 7, this season, with the new rifles. The shooting is very far ahead of the old; and the men are much pleased with their new arm. I hardly think this score has been beaten this season by any Volunteer Company.

	200yds.	400yds.	T'l.
Private Sohn Duval,	16	14	30
" Wm. Barnes,	13	9	22
Sergt. James Handall,	14	11	25
" R. Hopkins,	11	9	21
" E. Woolverton,	14	11	25
Private W. Nellis,	12	11	23
" A. Seeter,	13	5	18
" D. Woolverton,	9	3	11
" W. Nixon,	11	13	24
" Geo. Hopkins,	10	15	25
" Peter Gordon,	14	9	23
" H. Airoy,	11	5	17