

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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Canada was without the proposed representation at Creedmoor this year, and missed a golden opportunity to secure possession of the handsome Hilton trophy, which was won with the low score of 1017, the lowest winning score since 1885. Only three teams competed, and the Massachusetts marksmen, winners for the last four years in succession, were not represented. The weather was against high scoring, being wet and windy. The winning team used the Springfield rifle. The detailed scores of all three teams will be found elsewhere in this issue, together with a report of the chief prize winners at all the matches of the meeting. It is to be regretted that Major Hood was obliged to drop his project of taking a Canadian team to Creedmoor, especially after the courteous response of the National Rifle Association to his request that the matches in general should be thrown open to the Martini rifle. Next season the matter should be taken up in earnest by some of our shooting organizations. Perhaps the Military Rifle League could make the sending of the team part of its programme. The competition for the honour of a place would be decidedly lively.

In the Ottawa correspondence of a leading Toronto paper there recently appeared a criticism of the behaviour of the Ottawa corporation towards the Dominion Rifle Association which must have been amusing reading to the riflemen of Toronto, whose civic authorities not only make no special effort to encourage practice but have taken an active part in the attempt to drive the riflemen off their present range to some spot perhaps ten or fifteen miles beyond the city limits. The criticism was not quite fair, for we feel convinced that were the Ottawa corporation approached properly they would be found not only willing but anxious to assist the Dominion Rifle Association in every possible way. Even now a scheme is on foot, promoted by one of the aldermen, to expropriate for park purposes the site of Rideau range, and thus save to the riflemen the high ground where the 600 yards firing points are situated, and which is being bit by bit taken from them by building encroachments. As for Ottawa's leading men, they behave very liberally towards the local rifle organizations, valuable auxiliaries to the Dominion Rifle Association, and if the latter body would make an effort they could no doubt considerably augment their prize list by subscriptions from the business men of the Capital, who realize the advantage derivable by their city as the bulls-eye of the Dominion.

The Treasurer of the Dominion Rifle Association has just had a new experience, a prize duly forwarded to the supposed winner being returned with the intimation that the recipient had not shot in the match. The circumstances appears in detail in our Correspondence. Upon inquiry we learn that the ticket upon which the prize was awarded, bore the competitor's name apparently written by himself, and was filled in and certified in the regular way. Any error, therefore, was the register keeper's, and no vigilance on the part of the staff of the Association could have discovered it. Probably some other competitor made the score, and the register-keeper having two blank tickets thoughtlessly entered it upon the wrong one. It remains now for some competitor who expected his score to take a prize but did not see his name in the list to come forward and claim it, and thus clear up the mystery; the net result of the Association's efforts in this direction being the discovery of a witness who says he knows Capt. McMicking and is positive that he watched that officer fire a score in the revolver match!

Kind Words from Our Readers.

The MILITIA GAZETTE, "devoted to the interests of the active force of the Dominion," has for upwards of five years striven to the best of its ability to promote those interests. Our aim has been careful and steady, and though the fishtail winds of adversity have helped to make a gap between the results and the "possible" that might have been achieved, the kind words of congratulation constantly greeting us in the business correspondence received, show that we keep well within the inner line and score at least an occasional bullseye. For example, we take the liberty of quoting from three letters received this week, passages which though not intended for publication we have no doubt the writers will excuse us for thus using:—

MONTREAL, 22nd September.

* * Allow me to congratulate you upon your splendid and complete report of the D. R. A. matches. It is highly creditable and much appreciated by everyone here, and must be all over the Dominion as well.

F. MASSEY, Lt.-Col., 6th Fusiliers.

LEAMINGTON, ONT., 20th September.

* * I am greatly pleased with the MILITIA GAZETTE. Its perusal is a weekly treat to me. It has done splendid service for the Military Rifle League this season. The force should heartily support the paper.

J. R. WILKINSON, Lt.-Col.,

Commanding 21st Essex Fusiliers.

NIAGARA FALLS, ONT., 20th September.

* * I have read the MILITIA GAZETTE of the 11th inst. thoroughly, and pronounce it a grand paper, a complete record of the D. R. A. matches and Military Rifle League shooting, and a paper every militiaman should possess.

GEO. A. McMICKING, Capt. 44th Bn.

Such unsolicited testimonials, especially when they come as these do from readers whose praise and goodwill any paper might well court and be proud to secure, have helped materially to encourage the MILITIA GAZETTE in its endeavour to be of real value to its constituency.