

letter, and though ten is as many good average shots as the regiment of which I am an humble member can bring on the range, yet considering that the Government has been so liberal as to give free ammunition, I think we ought to do something for the gift, and not let the old shots get away with it all. Make the teams twenty-five men a side; or, if ten, then bar out every man who has won a prize at any Provincial or Dominion match, and give us young shots a chance; then the League will be doing what it was instituted for. I may say just here the old shots don't need free ammunition as an encouragement; you will find them on the range anyway.

There are a great many points in that letter one might criticise. Our friend says, "I believe that in no pastime the world over does there exist the purity that we have in our favourite sport." If that is so why all this necessity for selecting markers outside of corps of which teams shoot, why the necessity for an officer of a neutral corps in the butts to check the marking and measure the bulls-eye and rings? A remark like that after the experience of last year in the League is veritable gush. There are many fine fellows to be met on a rifle range; there are also many of whom the less said the better. Riflemen are after all but men, and the history of the rifle associations of the world shows that some of the greatest frauds have not been far away from rifle ranges.

PETER BLANK.

February 17th, '91.

ORDERLY ROOM CLERKS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.--Some time ago you were pleased to contribute some remarks in an issue of THE GAZETTE, on the correspondence appearing from time to time regarding the position of Orderly Room Clerks at the Schools of Instruction. I have been anxious to say something more on the subject, but have been unable to act sooner.

It has been stated that the Department has authorised for each school the quota of staff and non-commissioned officers required for a company. If the Sergeant-Major and Quartermaster-Sergeant are required on the establishment of a company, why not in the name of common sense an Orderly Room Sergeant also? An Orderly Room Clerk with the work of a School of Infantry, and, also, of a large brigade or district, has no such easy time as some people seem to imagine.

Although the paragraph in the regulations and orders authorizing the payment of ten cents per diem. reads:—"The non-commissioned officers acting as Orderly Room Clerks," &c., it does not seem to be intended that the appointment should be given to a N. C. O. on the establishment of the company. The new General will, let us hope, have his attention drawn to this matter, and that he will try to ameliorate the hard condition of Orderly Room Clerks by giving them the proper rank and status to which they are entitled in the standing army of the Dominion of Canada.

JUSTICE.

Her Majesty the Queen has accepted from the officers of the 4th Battalion the Rifle Brigade, a large bronze Burmese bell, taken by the Battalion near Mandalay. The bell which weighs nearly 7cwt., and is 3ft. 7in. high, is partly covered with an inscription which sets forth that it was cast in 1,220 of the Burmese era, corresponding to A. D. 1859. The bell, which is intended to be placed at Windsor, was prepared for presentation to the Queen by Messrs. E and E. Emanuel, 3, The Hard, Portsea, who have done the regimental work since the return of the battalion from Burma, and whose name will be familiar to those who have scanned our advertising columns.

REGIMENTAL.

TORONTO.

The season of Lent is upon us, but of a truth the idea of renouncing all the pomps and vanities of this wicked world seems to be far from the minds of a great many of our militiamen, and perhaps the unusual activity displayed for the past week and rumours of events to take place in the near future will bring them still further under the ban of that august body the Ministerial Association.

On Tuesday evening the members of "A" Company gave their first smoking concert, to an audience of about one hundred and thirty guests. The chair was taken by Capt. Thompson promptly at eight o'clock, and the large programme of nineteen pieces was carried through a little inside of two hours. The committee had matters so well in hand that in no instance did a delay of over two minutes take place. Space does not permit of a description of the concert, which owed its success to the following contributors: Cornet solo by H. L. Clarke; euphonium solo by Budson Smith; Bugle Band Orchestra under Bugler Davis; songs by Messrs. Dickie, Barker, Stevens, Sergts. Duncan and Woods, Pte. Kain and Bugler Davis; recitations by Mr. H. L. Ebbles and Pte. Acheson. Among the guests of the evening were Lieut.-Col. Miller, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Capt. Mason, Lieuts. Knifton, Crean and Wyatt. Dancing and other amusements filled up the remainder of a very enjoyable evening.

On Friday evening the members of the Bugle Band were at home to their friends, and about sixty couples availed themselves of the well known hospitality of this corps, and to the music of Maitland's orchestra danced just as often and just as blithely as if Lent was not holding sway, but then, no doubt, they thought that perhaps it wouldn't be so bad after all if they brought the evening to a close a little earlier than usual, which they did about 2 a.m.

The committee having charge of it was composed of Bugle-Major Swift, Corpls. Cotterell and Ross, while caterer Tasker attended to the longing not supplied by the orchestra.

The billiard, pool, card and cribbage tournament is now in full swing in the Sergeants' Mess, and the committee in charge have provided some very handsome and costly prizes.

Recruiting is going on briskly among the several companies, and in a short time additional arms will have to be supplied, or else a waiting list will have to be started in order to keep pace with the increasing strength of the regiment.

ANNUAL DINNER OF "D" CO., Q. O. R.

On Wednesday evening the annual dinner of "D" Company took place at Webb's, and at 8.15 p.m. Napolitano's Orchestra played the guests into the supper room to the tune of the Regimental Quickstep. About eighty sat down to discuss a bill of fare furnished as only Webb can furnish, and no time was lost in discussing the many dishes. The chair was occupied by Capt. Mason, supported in the vice-chairs by Lieut. Peuchen and Col.-Sergt. Robertson. Seated on the right of the chairman were Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, ex-Capt. Miller, Major Sankey, Capt. Bennett, Capt. Mutton, Quartermaster Heakes, Staff-Sergt. Harp, and on his left were Mayor Clarke, Lieut.-Col. Jones (Dufferin Rifles), Capt. Macdonald, Lieut.-Col. Miller, Capt. Pellatt, Capt. Thompson, Capt. McLean (Grenadiers), Lieut. Wyatt, ex-Lieut. Mickle, Quartermaster-Sergt. Powell, of the Royal Engineers, Halifax, Col.-Sergt. World, "H" Company, Sergt. Pearson, "E" Company; Mr. W. J. Mitchell, late of Winnipeg, and Col.-Sergt. Barr. On the back of the menu was a memo showing "D" Company's average attendance at drill to have been 50.4, and its percentage of possible drills to have been 90.2, a showing which again places it at the head of the regiment.