

the manner which seemed best to him in his own interests, and under this impression was having his stone brought to the city cut and dressed.

This did not suit the ideas of the stone-cutters of Toronto, who do not intend that Major Stewart is to have all the profit he can make out of the contract, but who want to share it with him, and with this object in view have been making things hot for him.

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Major Stewart has one great advantage in his favour. He is a Scot, and imbued with a full share of the native obstinate determination of that plucky nation, and not likely to give in to anyone if to his personal disadvantage, even if it necessitates his bringing his efficient Field Battery to his protection.

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At the annual meeting of the National Rifle Association of America held in New York recently, a motion was made that future inter-state matches should be shot with the national arm—the U.S. Springfield rifle—and factory ammunition. This was strongly opposed on behalf of the New York militia, and it was claimed that they could not give up their Remington rifles now in use, for which the Seventh and Twenty-third regiments load their own cartridges, using more powder and a heavier bullet than are found in the factory cartridges.

The motion was lost.

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There are several interesting features in the above for Canadians, not the least of which is the apparent fact that the tail is allowed to wag the dog on the other side of the line, and the State of New York may dictate to all the states of the Union in the affairs of the N. R. A.; another is the unmilitary ideas which must obtain in the councils of the N. R. A., where volunteers are encouraged to practise with ammunition, if not with arms, which they certainly would not use on active service, for which they are supposed to be training themselves; and a third is the extraordinary ideas as to what constitutes a fair competition which must prevail among the same gentlemen.

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An earnest protest against the ruling of the N. R. A. is made on behalf of the volunteers of states other than New York, by "Shooting and Fishing," and they are advised to sever their connection with the

N. R. A. on account of this and other rulings.

This would certainly be one way of solving the difficulty but it scarcely seems to be a judicious or manly one, or in the interests of the force. It would appear to be a wiser course for the volunteers of all the States outside of New York to take a sufficiently active part in the affairs of the association to control the unruly member, and compel *it* to go the way of the majority or withdraw.

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The solution of the difficulty is not without interest to Canadians, as we have often been urged to send a team to compete for the Hilton trophy. This would no doubt be done if our men, who would have to go armed with their Government Martins and equipped with factory ammunition, were to be met by competitors armed in a similar fashion; but which is not likely to be contemplated as long as the volunteers of the State of New York reserve to themselves privileges such as now pertain to the position they have assumed.

#### MUSKETRY TRAINING.

General Sir Frederick Roberts is not by any means alone in the estimate which he entertains of a thorough system of musketry instruction.

Numerous officers of distinction and experience in continental armies are quite as pronounced in the expression of their views as to the absolute necessity of a soldier making himself thoroughly conversant with his rifle before he can be of much service to his state.

Reports of inspectors of rifle practice in the United States are replete with suggestions as to the best means of ensuring thorough training on the part of the militia in this necessary part of their duty, and Colonel Chase, Inspector-General of Rifle Practice in Massachusetts, has recommended the consideration of a scheme by which the pay of men who neglect to perfect themselves in the use of their rifle, be reduced or retained in whole, according to the scale of their deficiency.

This is much upon the same line as what we advocate for our militia. It is worse than useless, it is absolute waste, to pay men annually for drill who neglect the most important part of their duty—musketry practice—and there are hundreds, aye, thousands, so paid.

Adjutant-General Sprague, of the State of Maine, issued an order recently in regard to rifle practice in which it provides that, "men failing to use thirty rounds of ammunition, as prescribed by order, before 15th June, will be dismissed from the service."

The Government of Canada last year issued some 600,000 rounds of Snider ball ammunition. About 65,000 rounds of this was for the Military League competition, and over 90,000 rounds for the Schools of Infantry and Artillery, leaving about 450,000 rounds distributed among the active force—say 30,000 men—or 15 rounds a piece, not a very munificent supply when the comparatively slight cost (only \$7,200) is considered.

This issue was distributed for use without other supervision on behalf of the government than such as was afforded by the care to be exercised by the various officers drawing ammunition for their several commands, unless it is claimed that the instructors of musketry at the brigade-camps superintended the use of the portions allotted to the corps assembled in them. This they did to a certain extent, but to ascertain that this supervision was by no means close or effective, it is only necessary to refer to the incomplete list of returns of the performance and percentages of target practice at the camps as they are furnished in the militia departmental report for last year.

At more than one camp the target practice, owing to one cause or another, was not carried out, or only partially so, and the ammunition was carried away to headquarters to be used there, but no returns of its proper application were ever received by the department.

The present unsatisfactory state of affairs as to the annual performance of target practice duty by many members of the force might be very materially improved by the appointment of a good active officer as inspector of musketry for the Dominion, whose sole duty would be the care and superintendence of the target practice of the force throughout the Dominion.

The position would be no sinecure, and would call for the attention of one whose whole heart was in the work. Doubtless the office would be supplemented by assistants, for the work would before long become too heavy for one man to attend to, but of all the money expended on the