

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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Comment and Criticism.

THE annual prize meeting of the Province of Quebec rifle association begins on Tuesday next on the Point St. Charles ranges, and promises in every way to be a successful one. The abolition of sighting shots enables the committee to bring all the events into two days' shooting. This, and the fact that all the prizes, except the medals, have been thrown open to the whole Dominion; should induce a largely increased attendance from Eastern Ontario, and we sincerely hope that a goodly representation from the Kingston, Ottawa, and Glengarry districts will reward the enterprise of the association. The Guards and Forty-third will send strong teams, and feel assured of the same hearty welcome that they received last year. Our advice to all in both provinces who can make a fair target is to attend if they possibly can; they will see some good shooting on a good range, and get good practice for the Dominion meeting.

OUR Prairie Province friends open their provincial meeting on the same day as Quebec, and offer a goodly array of prizes. We look forward with much interest to details of the contest, and especially because some of the local associations in the far west propose sending teams. This is a great step in advance—a stride only made possible by the same agency which assures the D. R. A. a Pacific province team—the opening of our trans-continental railway. The extended interest in rifle shooting this year indicated by the attendance of Indian and Australian teams at Wimbledon, the affiliation of the Saskatchewan district association with the D. R. A. last winter, and the sending of teams from the far west to our eastern meetings are most satisfactory

tokens of the increased life of the volunteer system throughout the empire, and the gradual assimilation of the several elements of that widely distributed whole.

LAST year we were reproached many a time and oft for devoting so much space to "frivolous shooting contests," but age does not appear to be bringing us wisdom in this matter. In the first place we are willing to rank as another "Noodle" in our conviction that good shooting is the one thing needful in a soldier; in the second place we must make hay while the sun shines. Nearly all the shooting of the year is in Canada crowded into the six weeks immediately succeeding this, and while that is going on volunteers are thinking of little else. Consequently our next few issues will be "full of shoot;" after that we will get a little leisure to discuss the summer camps, and then will come the long and dreary winter, when we will be full of the doings of city corps, and when country regiments will growl at us for not giving them a due heed of attention. However we are glad to say the growling is nearly all good natured, and those who abused us the most were the first to enquire anxiously last month if we did not intend to resume publication.

CONTEMPLATION of the Snider ammunition question fills us with dread, for the shots are worrying about the quality of cartridges they will have for the D.R.A. matches, and no authoritative information seems yet to be forthcoming. Col. Bacon has secured some extraordinarily good targets made with the new specially prepared cartridges, but the opinion is expressed pretty plainly that we cannot depend on always securing a uniform quality of powder, and that, so far as this point is concerned, the end is not yet. There is one thing we can say with tolerable certainty, and that is, that if the ammunition used at the matches does not satisfy the competitors the end of the D.R.A. will not be far off.

THE Toronto and Nova Scotia military districts are to open their annual camps on the 7th September, the date having recently been fixed. The camp of the former will be at Niagara, as usual, and the latter at Aldershot. We notice that Col. Worsley, D.A.G., has applied for the attendance of A school of infantry at this camp, as models in drill, discipline and appearance. They annually go into the New Brunswick camp and have been found invaluable in teaching the regiments there assembled how to do brigade and battalion movements and guard mounting with the utmost precision, and without that fussiness and confusion which are so often found in less drilled corps.

COLONEL MILLER is not letting the grass grow under his feet. The last general orders announce that in the Eighth Royal Rifles promotions will in future be according to seniority. We have often wondered why the company system of promotion should have been retained so long in this regiment, which had all its company headquarters in the city of Quebec, and have no doubt that the new, and obviously fairer, plan will be found an encouragement to officers joining.