THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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Topics of the Week.

A considerable quantity of contributed matter, including the scores of several regimental and other associations, has had to be left over from week to week lately, on account of the pressure of matter of more widespread importance. We had hoped to clear the sheet this week, but have to ask our contributors' indulgence for yet another issue.

The riflemen's practical experience, we fancy, agrees with the belief expressed by Capt. Harston in our correspondence columns this week, that the accuracy of the Snider ammunition is not affected by that defect in manufacture which causes the "anvil" to become detached. Of course the defect should not be there, but it should not be held to account for more than it deserves.

For their first annual prize meeting, to be held at Regina on the 4th, 5th and 7th October, the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association have issued a programme which, as well for the contents as the artistic manner of their presentation, would do credit to any organization. The matches, which are all for the Snider rifles, except one for the Winchester restricted to the N. W. M. Police, number fourteen all told, and a iberal series of cash prizes are offered in each, in addition to medals, cups and other trophies which any rifleman might covet. The meeting will be formally opened at 9 o'clock on Friday morning, 4th October, by His Excellency the Governor General; the silver and bronze medals presented by whom occupy places of honour upon the prize list. We will gladly welcome to the columns of the MILITIA GAZETTE the record of this inaugural tournament of the latest established provincial association; an organization which bids fair to rival in the near future more than one of those for many years in operation.

The Montreal Rifle Association is promulgating an interesting scheme as a "grand finale" of the shooting season. It is proposed to get up a gigantic telegraphic rifle match between teams from the rifle clubs of the leading cities of Canada. The match to be fired Saturday, October 5th, with Martini rifles, at 200, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots at each range, and twenty men on each team. The range totals of teams and details of weather to be sent by telegraph and the fuller details of scores (individual), etc., to be sent by mail to the Secretary of the Montreal association. The following clubs are suggested as likely to take part : Ottawa, Bowmanville, St. Catharines, Winnipeg, Quebec, Halifax, Army and Navy (Halifax), Toronto, Victoria of Hamilton, Montreal, Victoria, B.C., St. John, N.B., and Prince Edward Island. To this list we would suggest the addition of the Assiniboia Provincial Association, who on that date will be holding their annual prize meeting, at Regina. The scheme, which is being boomed by Mr. W. R. Pringle, the acting secretary of the association, is one deserving of encouragement, and apt to give quite an impetus to rifle shooting.

The Artillery Tournaments.

Since 1885, the Garrison Artillery of the Dominion have annually met in friendly competition at the Island of Orleans, Quebec, there to put in the firing practice required by the drill regulations, and at the same time to compete for the valuable prizes offered by the Dominion Artillery Association. The only break in the series was in 1886, and was caused by the exceptional circumstance of the sending of a team to Shoeburyness, and thus absorbing the money which otherwise would have been spent upon the Orleans competition. This year's meeting was held last week, with what result may be noted in detail elsewhere in this issue. In general, it may be characterized as a pronounced success. The attendance was large, twenty-three batteries being represented. The weather was exceptionally fine. The scores were better than usual, and the highest with both 64 and 40 pounders show extremely good marksmanship, especially when it is taken into account that the targets this year consisted of barrels about 4x3 feet in size, placed at ranges of 2,000 and 1,730 yards respectively. Last year the targets were 6x8 feet, and the distances were about 1,800 and 1,600 yards.

The Halifax Brigade deserve especial congratulation for their successes. Their No 3 Battery succeeded again in taking top place in the 40 pr. competition, thus securing permanent possession, having won it two years in succession, of the Montreal challenge cup, a handsome and valuable trophy much coveted by the contestants. In the Shifting Ordnance competition, where Halifax last year took first place, that brigade was on this occasion a good second, the winners being the Prince Edward Island Brigade, who took first place also in the 64 pr. computition. By all accounts the victories in each of the competitions went by merit and not by any means by chance, for the winning teams had evidently received thorough instruction, and were carefully coached by the officers in charge, who seemingly well knew the nature of each man's liability to error and warned him accordingly.

The competition was under the direction of Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, and Lieut.-Cols. Montizambert and Cotton, Assistant Inspectors ; together with the president of the association, Lt.-Col. Macdonald of Guelph. The camp quartermaster was Major Crawford Lindsay, Q.F.B., and adjutant Capt. Rutherfored, B Battery. Surgeon Turcot, Q. F. B., was in attendance in case his professional services should be required. The register keeper was Captain Donaldson, secretary of the D. A. A., and the range officers were Captain Farley and Captain Pelletier of B Battery. There were many distinguished visitors to the Island during the week. To witness the opening of the proceedings there came, bright and early on Monday morning, the Governor General, Lord Stanley of Preston ; and Lieut. Gov. Angers of Quebec ; the visitors present including also