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No. 3.

## The Efficiency Competition in Ontario.

We have pleasure in congratulating the 13th Battalion of Hamilton in winning the Gzowski Cup, competing, as it does against two of the finest corps in Canada—the Queen's Own Rifles and the Royal Grenadiers. It speaks highly for the discipline and *esprit de corps* that exists in the Battalion from the commanding officer downwards. By reference to the Major General's report (a summary of which appears in this issue), it will be seen that the 13th obtained an average of 98½ points, well ahead of the corps next in order (Queen's Own Rifles), whose average was 91½. The 12th Battalion, "York Rangers," shows up remarkably well, ranking next to the Queen's Own, with a score of 84¾ and Lieut.-Col. Wayling and his officers deserve hearty praise for the excellent manner in which their regiment (which has all the disadvantages of the meagre training allowed to a rural corps) has come to the front. In No. 1 District, the 21st "Essex Fusiliers," also stands very well with an average of 77. The Governor General's Foot Guards (in No. 4) him an excellent average of 87 1-3, while on the other hand, another crack corps (the 14th of Kingston), shows up very poorly, only getting 66½, and the 43rd, of Ottawa (one of the best, if not the best all-round shooting Battalion in Canada), is still worse with 59½; this latter figure is due however, to the dis-organization of Nos. 2 and 5 Companies, and the consequent heavy reduction in average. No 1 Company of this corps is credited with the highest number of points (111) won by any company in the four Districts.

## Government Treatment of the P. Q. R. A.

We call attention to the report of Council Meeting of Province of Quebec Rifle Association, which appears in another column of this paper. It will be noticed that the Provincial Government still decline to give any financial assistance to the Association, although a very trifling sum (\$300.00,) is all that is asked. Until a year or two ago, a grant was made each year from the Provincial funds, but having been dropped out, (we understand by an oversight,) a short time ago, the Ministry have since declined to re-

insert it in the estimates, in spite of all efforts brought to bear in the matter. It is unnecessary to state here how public opinion regards many of the items which appeared in the Provincial Treasurer's statement in the last three or four years; it is sufficient to point out that it would be difficult to find an institution which has a greater right to ask a measure of financial assistance than has the Rifle Association of this Province, where difficulties are met with which do not appear in any of the other provinces of the Dominion, owing to so great a majority of the population of the Province taking no interest whatever in that most essential part of national defence,—rifle shooting. Every Province in Canada assists to a greater or less extent its own association by a financial grant, and it is simply disgraceful that the one which, from its geographical position is most in need of having a body of marksmen ready for service, should be the only one to refuse anything in this direction. It is well known that so far as the Provincial Treasurer is personally concerned, he is strongly in favour of a fair measure of financial assistance in this case, but we fear the other members of the Cabinet fail to look at it in the same light; we hope, however, that if the case is put fairly before them (so far as the special necessity in the Province of Quebec for training rifle shots is concerned,) that they may be disposed to continue the grant.

## Medals for our Permanent Corps.

It would be interesting to know what has resulted from the meeting of colonial representatives held in London three months ago, to consider the question of granting medals to the local permanent troops for meritorious service, good conduct, and long service. It will be remembered that H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge and Mr. Stanhope were heartily in favour of the proposal, and agreed to advise Her Majesty to grant such medals, by regulations issued through the vice-regal representative in each colony concerned; the medals to be almost uniform with those issued to the Imperial troops. No doubt the delay, apparently inseparable from the consideration of such matters, will postpone a decision for some time yet; but we sincerely trust that the matter will not be lost sight of. Our Canadian regulars have so little encouragement or reward in this way, that everything that can induce length of service and good conduct will be warmly welcomed by them.

## Rewards for Long Service.

At the same meeting it was also decided by the various colonial representatives, that medals should be given to the volunteers or militia as well as to the permanent corps. (In Canada the latter are also officially styled militia, but no such absurdity exists in the other colonies, so that there is no need confusing the two branches.) There is no doubt that this is fully as important, if not more so, than the medals for the permanent corps, as affecting a much larger number, and is one which should be actively taken hold of by the authorities here. What is wanted is that those members of the Canadian militia who have served continuously fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five years, be granted some special honour or mark of distinction, as has been recently conferred on long service officers of the volunteers in England. As to the advisability of this, or as to the practical benefit it will be to the force, there is, we think, little question. The main point is, should it be urged on the Imperial or on our own Government? There are a good many reasons in favour of the former step, but, on the whole, it would be most appropriate that such distinctions—take what shape they may—should come from the Dominion authorities, as they pay, equip and arm the force, and are its practical rulers in every particular. It would be well if an expression of the views of some of the veterans of the active force were publicly given