

"ment Commander is sure that there is not an officer in the department who would contemplate that method of preserving the lives of his men, he is forced to the conclusion that those who habitually and persistently neglect the instruction of their men in the use of the rifle, are thoughtless of the great responsibility which rests on those in whose hands the lives of men are placed."

It would be a good thing for the force in Canada if the above quotation could be embodied in a General Order from Headquarters, and that be made compulsory upon officers to teach their men how to shoot.

In the target system of the U. S. Army, officers are required to practise with their men. "This insures to the officer a practical and thorough knowledge of the use and capabilities of the weapon with which his men are armed, and it also brings the officer into official relationship with his men, that teaches them patience and perseverance while instructing, and forbearance in the exercise of arbitrary authority."

The excellence attained with the Snider or the Martini-Henry rifles was hardly anticipated by those who urged the British Government to adopt them into the service. It is all very well to speak or tell of the wonderful scores made with the match rifle, for such rifles have all the adventitious aids of carefully weighed charges of powder, specially prepared and selected bullets, micrometric sights, the perfection of work and mechanism in the rifle itself, and the numerous etceteras which attend a match rifle; but take the man, who with a rifle issued and used for the purpose of drill, put in fact to its legitimate use, and the cartridges supplied to the corps to which he belongs, without any extraneous aids or appliances, save it may be a vernier, and entirely through his own knowledge and skill, can, and does make high scores at 500 and 600 yards, and you have what may legitimately be called—a perfect marksman. The small bore man may make at 1,000 yards bull's eyes without stint, and his shooting is after all to a great extent mechanical; but take the Snider shot and you have something very different, for his good shooting depends upon his having a thorough knowledge of his rifle; an instinctive perception of what to do on the spur of the moment; correct judgment in the matters of wind and sun, heat and cold, fog and rain; the allowances to be made therefor, and to properly estimate in sighting for those allowances; a clear eye; a firm and steady grip of the rifle; confidence in the cartridges used; and the habit of noting for future reference the conditions under which each shot has been fired, whether in practice or in a match.

To be Continued.

THE D. R. A. MEETING.

The seventeenth annual prize meeting began on the morning of the 31st August, at the Rideau Ranges, Ottawa, where for many years past the matches have been held. For those who have never visited this range it would be impossible, for those who have, it would be unnecessary to describe it. For the benefit of the latter we may, however, mention that the arrangements are similar to those of last year. On the banks of the Rideau are targets A and B for the Martini's shooting at 800 yards and for the long-range match. Then come high targets C, D, E and F in the old trenches for all the 500 yards firing at extra series, Martini and pool. Next, in one long trench 100 yards farther back than the last named, are the 25 targets which will be used in the regular matches, with their numbers on the fence above them, even numbers black on a white ground, and odd numbers the reverse. In the field to the right of the range proper are targets G and H for the extra matches at 200 yards, while on the right of all is the revolver target. The official tents are thrown farther back than last year, well clear of the 600 yards range. The officers in the various departments are as follows:—

President of the Association—Lieut.-Col. the Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick, Speaker of the House of Commons.

Chairman of the Executive Committee, *pro tem*—Lieut.-Col. Wm. White, 43rd O. & C.R.

Special Committee for the Matches—Lieut.-Col. White, Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, Major Blacklock, Lieut.-Col. Gibson, Major-General Laurie.

Executive Officer—Major J. P. Macpherson, Guards.

Range Officers for Artillery—Major LeSueur, 8th R.R.; Captain Hodgins, Guards; Capt. Evans, 43rd Batt.; and Lieut. Bliss, O.F.B.

Secretary's Office—Lieut.-Col. Bacon, Secretary; Lieut. Todd, G.G.F.G., Messrs. Barpee, Short, Harrison.

Treasurer's Office—Lieut.-Colonel Macpherson, Treasurer; Mr. Hewbitt.

Statistical Officers—Major Walsh, 43rd; Messrs. C. C. Rogers and B. H. Humphreys.

We append the detail of the Middleton match, which has been arranged since our last issue, for prizes presented by the Major-General commanding.

The Middleton Match—Value \$50.

Presented by Major-General Sir Frederick Middleton, K. C. M. G.

Entrance free. Open to sections of 5 men, as in the British Challenge Shield Match.

Prizes—1st prize, \$25; 2nd prize, \$15; 3rd prize, \$10.

To the sections making the highest aggregate scores in the following stages:—

1.—Skirmishing.

Distance.—Varying from 500 yards to 100 yards.

Position.—Prone, but where the nature of the ground does not permit of this position, the firer may use the kneeling or standing position at his discretion.

No. of Rounds.—Ten per man to be fired advancing and ten per man to be fired retiring.

Size of Targets.—4 feet x 2 feet 6 inches, to be exposed at irregular intervals and at uncertain periods. Firing to commence on appearance of targets.

The double to be used in advancing and the quick march in retiring.

2.—Volley Firing.

Distance.—As above.

Position.—As above.

No. of Rounds.—Five per man to be fired advancing and five per man to be fired retiring.

Size of Targets.—As above. The sections to advance at the double and fire five rounds by word of command at targets exposed for 15 seconds, and then retire in quick time and fire five rounds in the same manner.

Dress, rifles, ammunition, &c., as in ordinary matches. No knapsacks or kit required.

There are present about 300 competitors, of whom about 226 are from Ontario and Quebec, 30 from Nova Scotia, 24 from New Brunswick, 10 from Prince Edward Island, and 10 from Manitoba.

[Up to the time of writing three matches have been concluded, but we prefer reserving the scores until next week, so that a complete record of the whole meeting will be published in the one issue. We may mention that the Nursery was won by Sergt. Hora, 14th Battalion, with a score of 24; the Manufacturers' by Sergt. King, 45th Battalion, with 34; and the Rideau by Sergt. Allan, with 35.

EDITOR.]

THE ENCAMPMENT SEASON.

No sooner are we freed of the bustle and excitement of Wimbledon—of the shooting and the many varied matters of interest and importance incidental to a gathering of its kind and dimensions, than our attention is directed to the doings of the thousands of volunteers under canvas, whose encampments are to be met with in almost every part of the country. We presume it will ever be a matter of controversy with some as to the relative advantages of shooting as compared with drill, and the task would be quite hopeless were anyone to attempt to narrow down the radiated views of many of the patriotic critics of our national movement. Many prominent thinkers and outspoken writers do not hesitate to point out the many glaring defects in our army system, and advocate with considerable force that the present teaching of drill and shooting should just be reversed, that instead of so much drill and so little shooting, we should just have the opposite, and that every soldier should be trained to the utmost, with the view of making him a thorough marksman, and in whose hands a rifle would be a weapon of deadly precision, when such was necessary. If this reform be necessary for the perfecting of our army—and we are at one with those who are of that opinion—equally so is it necessary for the better efficiency of the volunteers. So long, however, as the present system of training remains unaltered (where every effort which is put forth by those in authority is purely and simply in the interests of drill) the volunteer force of our country will most probably not receive those deserts in shooting experience to which they are entitled, and continue to remain a grand example of patriotic valour—yet an unknown quantity—in untrained men. To those thousands of men, however, who are at present taking part in the various manœuvres all praise is due; their work is heavy and arduous. It is no fault of theirs that some higher standard of skill is not demanded from them, but many are the advantages which they will derive from their outing, both in training and health-giving exercise. Considerable complaints are rife on the score of insufficient government camp allowance. What is given goes but a very short way to defray the expense of these gatherings, and it is sadly to be regretted that such deficiencies have to be met either by private munificence of officers, or drawn—in many cases—from the already too heavily burdened regimental funds.—*Vol. Record.*