

issued it may be received with the same favour as the Snider ammunition manufactured in recent years.

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It has lately been decided by the Council of the National Rifle Association that rapid firing competitions, introducing the element of luck into the competition, shall not be included in the Bisley aggregates this year. An alteration will also be made in the regulation governing the qualifications for the recruits' bronze medals competition.

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The *Broad Arrow* is rough on the Honourable Artillery Company. Referring in a vague sort of way to alleged dissensions in the corps, and suggesting that it seems to suffer from a chronic malady as mysterious in its origin as the influenza, our contemporary says:—Everyone thought that after the last cutburst which culminated in the retirement of its Colonel-in-Chief, the C. O., the Adjutant and one or two more, the H. A. C. bacillus had pretty well worn itself out.

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This is the Volunteer corps (adds the *B. A.*) which, on account of its something or-other (certainly neither its utility or efficiency), combined with its pseudo-antiquity, is placed not only before the finest Volunteer corps of the United Kingdom, but is actually dovetailed between the Line and Militia battalions of the territorial regiments as a frightful example, it can only be assumed, of that which a city Court of Assistants can produce in the way of amateur militiamen.

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The Australian Governments have decided to appoint a Joint Military Adviser in London, and instructions have been received by the Agents General to make the appointment. The Colonial Governments wish the officer selected to be on the Active List and a member of the Ordnance Committee. The salary is fixed at £800 a year, with an office, and an allowance of £200 a year for a clerk. Major-General E. Harding Steward, R. E., C. M. G., has for the past ten years served the whole of the Australasian group in this connection, and it is understood that he will retire early in the spring. Major-General Steward has, however, consented to continue to act as military adviser to the New Zealand Government, as well as to other Colonies in other parts of the world.

NEW BRUNSWICK RIFLE ASS'N.

The New Brunswick Rifle Association are to be congratulated upon the very satisfactory annual report published by the council of that association, and especially upon the financial statement, which reflects the highest credit upon the able and economical administration of the association by the executive.

The proportion of receipts distributed in prizes is very large—nearly 50 per cent. of the total revenue—and is unusually so compared with the amount received from entrance fee. This is a feature which might commend itself strongly to the officials of other similar associations.

An interesting statement was presented to a meeting of council held subsequently to the annual meeting which showed the amount of cash prizes won by different competitors at the annual matches. If a similar analysis were made by secretaries of other rifle associations throughout the Dominion, it would probably do more to disabuse the public mind of the popular idea that rifle shooting is an exceedingly profitable pastime than any other argument that could be used.

At the meeting in question 3 competitors won over \$40 each, 6 won between \$30 and \$40, and the remaining 73 won less than \$30 each, 40 of them winning less than \$10 each.

To anyone who is at all familiar with the expenses attendant upon regular target practice and competition at matches, these figures will furnish very conclusive proof that there is no fortune in rifle shooting.

Captain J. Twining Hartt has been re-elected secretary-treasurer for the ensuing year, and the association are to be congratulated upon again securing his valuable services.

ANNUAL TRAINING.

"The annual drills have been carried out during the current year with the usual results. * * *

"The system pursued secures as much efficiency as the provision made by Parliament allows, but it would have been more generally perceptible if the whole force could have been trained.

"Both officers and men of the force have made great progress during the twelve days allotted to drill, more indeed than seems possible; but especially is this so in the rural corps, not that they are better than the city corps, but because their drills are carried out under greater difficulties. I may therefore without impropriety ask your consideration of such a scheme as will provide requisite facilities for training the whole of the rural corps every year; indeed it seems

"desirable that such should be done."—(*Report of Adjutant General to Minister of Militia, 24th Nov., 1890.*)

"Some officers have made strenuous efforts, and deserve great credit. But to keep up and carry on this, I have again to bring to your notice and to recommend that the officers, at least, be drilled every year (if one expects that they should retain what they have learnt at the schools). * * * With the continual change of drill and the rapid progress made in the military art, I consider it an absolute necessity that the officers should drill every year."—(*Annual Report D. A. G., M. D. No. 6, 14 Nov. 1890.*)

"In considering efficiency secured in rural cavalry and infantry corps it is of course necessary to bear in mind the serious drawback of not having annual drill."—(*Annual Report D. A. G., M. D. No. 5, 28 Oct., 1890.*)

"The conduct of the men was excellent, and we made the best possible use of our time. * * * If they were drilled every year, they would compare very favourably with the city regiments, even in smartness, but perhaps it is thought, if we had our knife too sharp, it might cut somebody."—(*Annual Report D. A. G., M. D. No. 9, 9 Nov., 1890.*)

The above expressions of opinion taken from the annual report of the Department of Militia for the year, 1890, are but fair samples of the ideas of various officers of standing and experience upon the subject of annual training for the militia of Canada.

The reports of the Department have for years past fairly bristled with similar recommendations, which, however, have failed to bear fruit, although many commanders of rural corps who have seats in the House have but to press the matter with any degree of sincerity to secure this much desired reform. This fact ought not to be overlooked when these gentlemen appeal again to their constituents.

An old adage teaches us to fight the devil with his own weapons, and if the militia is to be ruled from a political standpoint alone, then it is high time that the members of it should take active measures to get on an equal footing with their adversaries.

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Although the Government is unable to devote sufficient money to the use of the militia to enable the Department to drill the members of it already enrolled annually, it found no difficulty in securing a special grant to enrol and drill an entirely new corps in the city of Toronto, because the matter was presented to them in a sufficiently pertinent and determined manner by the politicians of that city. *Verb. sap.!*