

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Comment and Criticism.

INFORMATION received from all parts of the Dominion goes to show that there will be a larger attendance at the forthcoming prize meeting of the D.R.A., the programme of which is published in this issue, than there has been on any former occasion. British Columbia, as before stated, will send a team; the Winnipeg papers announce that the Prince Albert association will have a good representation, and other organizations in the North-west which have affiliated are expected to be heard from. From the eastern provinces the number of competitors will likely show a good increase. The secretary has made preparations for 350 entries in each match, and it looks as if he will not have very many spare tickets.

THE advent of a team from the Pacific province this season to compete at the D. R. A. matches, is a matter for congratulation and pride to themselves as well as to the association. It marks a new stage in the militia organization of our country, and may be taken as a sign of deep significance in the history of Canada. At Ottawa, representatives of all the provinces will meet as on common ground to test their skill as marksmen—each vying with the other to uphold the credit of his province. Such meetings cannot do otherwise than engender a kindly feeling between the various sections of the Dominion as well as between individuals, and in this way keep up and strengthen the territorial and political links by which we are united together by means of that far stronger and more lasting bond of union—common hopes and aspirations, good-fellowship, a firm and honest belief in the bright prospects of our young country, and a determination to uphold its honor and dignity when opportunity offers, a practical training for which is presented each year at the D. R. A.

WE can assure our friends from beyond the Rockies that they will be accorded a hearty welcome by their brethren in arms at this their first visit to the D.R.A. No pains will be spared to make them enjoy themselves and feel quite at home. We hope they will be able to reach Ottawa a few days in advance of the initial day of meeting, in order to get over the unsteady condition of the muscles usually produced by a long railway journey, and thus be enabled to give a good account of themselves at the butts. The old stagers will undoubtedly do their level best to keep up their record and not be outstripped; yet, if honors fall to the lot of the B.C. boys it will only be what they deserve after coming across the continent to take part in a friendly contest, and such honors, if won, will be gracefully accorded.

NO sooner is our great transcontinental route completed than we see evidence of active interest being taken in the position of British Columbia as affording a foothold for Great Britain to establish herself at this point, and as we write a member of the Royal Engineers, Col. O'Brien, with a competent staff, is proceeding thither to report upon the situation, and at no distant day we may expect to see a garrison established there, and evidence given that the Canadian Pacific Railway through its gigantic enterprise has done for Canada what centuries could not have done in making her important in the eyes of the whole civilized world, and who knows but *the* highway of commerce of immense value and interest from east to west; where this is acknowledged no further argument is requisite to show its vast importance as an invulnerable military highway extending across the continent entirely on British territory over 3,000 miles.

CONSIDERABLE anxiety is manifested by intending competitors about the ammunition with which they will have to fire this year. The latest information received concerning the new Canadian make, with brass coiled shells and powder from the Hamilton Powder Company, is very satisfactory, and if the whole make turns out equal to the samples with which tests have been made the difficulty will be solved.

THE Canadian artillery team now crossing the ocean will, upon arrival at Liverpool, proceed directly to Shoeburyness, where the competitions open on the 31st inst. and continue until the 13th of August. The Canadians will have to compete against about 160 detachments. The principal competitions in which they will take part will be those for the Governor-General's cup for ordnance shifting; the Montreal cup for 64-pounders; and the Londonderry cup for 40-pounders.

THE whole Canadian force should feel grateful to Major Short and other officers and men of "B" Battery for the very great popularity that they, representing the force, earned for it during their stay at Qu'Appelle recently terminated. One paragraph of an address presented to the battery by the citizens reads as follows:—"However well you may receive these congratulations, and however happy we may look whilst you are with us here, rest assured that we tender them to