

**The Militia Pastime.**

LAST week the shooting gallery bulletin board at the Victoria Rifles' armoury shewed a match on between past officers and the sergeants' mess, which was shot on Friday and proved the closest contest yet held, the past officers winning by four points, on totals 437 to 433—10 men a side, 7 rounds each range, at 500 and 600 yards.

The fifth spoon competition, series B, was shot on Saturday; 200 and 500 yards, 5 shots each range, and was won by Pte. G. Cooke, with 48 points.

The prayers of all shooting men are desired on behalf of their friends in the 5th District. The middle of May is upon us and no ranges, no moves yet in that direction and no hopes of any practice for weeks or months to come. Verily are we made to suffer for the sins of omission on someone's part.

**BUSBY.**  
In connection with this affliction a deputation from the executive of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, consisting of Col. Bond and Major Campbell, of Montreal, had an interview with the Minister of Militia at Ottawa on Tuesday morning, to urge him to take steps at once to fit up the new range. It was pointed out to Sir Adolphe that if it is not at once equipped, Sergt. Marks, of the 6th Fusiliers, and Pte. McAfee, of the Prince of Wales regiment, who are members of this year's Wimbledon team, will have to come to Ottawa for spring practice. The Minister promised to have the work begun at once.

I believe the volunteers of Great Britain are now supplied, if desired, with Morris tube ammunition, in lieu of a portion of the blank allowance.

As some of our battalions have procured Morris tubes and targets, wouldn't it be a good idea for the Canadian authorities to do for their volunteers what Great Britain has done for hers. There's no doubt that for practical purposes there is no comparison between the use of Morris tubes and blowing off blank, the former being a first-class training for the use of the rifle for what it is primarily intended—to shoot, the latter being generally regarded as a bit of fun. I would suggest an allowance of 40 rounds for each recruit, and 10 rounds yearly for each trained man, which would be for a six company battalion, allowing one-third recruits per annum, 5,880 rounds costing just about \$100.

Montreal, 2nd May, 1888.

**The Cobourg Rifle Association.**

The annual meeting of the Cobourg Rifle Association was held in Victoria Hall on Saturday evening, 28th April, the President, Lt. Col. J. Vance Graveley, presiding. The yearly report of the Secretary Treasurer, Mr. E. A. Macnachtan, was read. In brief, it was as follows:

The Cobourg Rifle Association is to be congratulated upon its continued success. This is largely attributable to the arrangements carried out by the Association during the past two years in holding regular, systematic weekly practices.

The Association is deeply indebted to its Patroness, Mrs. J. Vance Graveley, for the warm interest which she, together with her husband—the President—always takes in every Volunteer movement. We especially thank her for the valuable challenge cup which she presented to be shot for by the Volunteers of this county.

The match held in August last was largely attended and keenly contested. There was a large increase in the number of competitors both in the military and individual matches. So marked was the improvement in shooting that five of the competitors went to Ottawa, took part in the Dominion matches, and were successful in carrying off a number of prizes. A pleasing feature in connection with the match was the presentation of prizes to the successful competitors by the D. A. G. of the District, Lieut. Col. Villiers, and the commendatory and encouraging remarks made by him on that occasion. The total amount of the prize list was \$156.50, and the Treasurer has a balance in hand of \$10.71 to begin the season with.

The following officers were re-elected:—  
Lady Patroness,—Mrs. J. Vance Graveley.  
President,—Lt. Col. J. Vance Graveley.  
Vice-President,—Lieut. D. McNaughton.  
Secretary-Treasurer,—E. A. Macnachtan.  
Council,—Capt. H. J. Snelgrove, Capt. John McCaughey, and Sergt. George Archer.

The "premier shot," Mr. E. A. Macnachtan, announced that he would offer a challenge cup, to be competed for at the Association's weekly practices, and awarded to the marksman whose total number of points aggregated highest at the end of the season. Mr. Macnachtan's kind offer was accepted with thanks.

**The Ottawa Rifle Club.**

On Saturday, 5th May, the Ottawa Rifle Club inaugurated what promises to be the most successful season of the Club's existence, if numbers count for anything. There were thirty-five competitors, including several new faces: some tyros, and others men who have developed skill with the rifle in other places and coming to Ottawa to stay will help to increase the strength of the already formidable rifle club, an institution of which all its members feel justly proud. Amongst the latter class are Dr. B. F. Hurdman, still on the militia list as surgeon of the 55th Megantic Battalion, but for several months past practicing his profession in this city; and Mr. J. W. McDonald, sergeant in the Arnprior company of the 43rd Batt., who also has become a citizen of Ottawa.

The Rifle Club's officers this year are: president Major Perley, H.Q.S.; 1st vice, Mr. F. C. Lightfoot; 2nd vice, Capt. E. Waldo, R.L.; managing committee, Capt. J. Wright, 43rd; Lieut. G. R. White, G.G.F.G., and Mr. Jas. Grant; secretary-treasurer, Mr. E. D. Sutherland. There is a radical change in the shooting programme for the season of 1888, Snider shooting at 600 yards being dropped except for two matches, and the 400 yards range substituted. This is on account of the prevailing idea that the Snider rifles cannot be depended upon to send our Snider ammunition to the desired mark at any greater distance than 500 yards. Another change consists in dropping the 200 yards range at three Snider and four Martini matches—a change not so commendable in view of the fact that Canadian marksmen's shooting at 200 yards is far inferior to that of the Englishmen, our Kolapore cup team almost invariably leaving the 200 yards range badly handicapped for the rest of the match. The club fixtures include eighteen spoon competitions, to take place without regard to weather. Nine of these are Snider and nine Martini; and the two rifles will be used week about,

with the exception that the Martini has two consecutive innings on the 21st and 28th July. The first match took place on the 5th May, and the last will be on the 20th October. The club will take a holiday from the 28th July to the 22nd September, during which period the Provincial and Dominion meetings will engross the attention of the members.

Two spoons are offered for each competition, a dessert spoon as first and a tea spoon as second prize, the second spoon being in nine of the competitions reserved for the junior member making the highest score—a "junior" being one who has not already won two spoons, except in the case of new members, whom the committee will classify according to their known records. On any day when the second spoon is not reserved for the juniors, there will be an additional spoon offered to that class provided there are at least seven entries. Taking the season over the spoons pay for themselves and their engraving, the entrance fee for each competition being 25c. A member may shoot with the club or for the club aggregates without entering for the spoon.

The aggregate prizes are as follows: In the Snider series a prize presented by Lieut. G. R. White, for the best aggregate of two scores at 200, 400, and 500 yards; two at 400 and 500 yards; and one at 200, 500, and 600 yards. In the Martini series, a prize by Major Perley for the best aggregate of two scores at 200, 500, and 600 yards; two at 500 and 600 yards; and one at 800 and 900 yards. The club also offers a silver dessert spoon for the best aggregate made by a junior in each of the above series. For the grand aggregate, combining the Snider and Martini aggregates, the first prize will be the D. R. A. medal; the second, the O. R. A. medal; and the third a prize by Mr. F. C. Lightfoot.

The programme was opened on Saturday last, four targets being used, and the shooting being expeditiously performed. It was a Snider match, at 200, 400, and 500 yards, seven shots at each; position, kneeling at 200, prone at other ranges. The light was dull, and atmosphere exceedingly moist, making elevation abnormally low, and there was a stiff but steady right wind. The score was as follows:

Satheland, E. D.	30	32	27	89	Watters, Lieut.	28	21	19	68
Gray, H. H.	29	28	29	86	Ellis	25	22	19	66
Anderson, W. P.	30	29	27	86	McJanet, T.	23	16	25	64
Carroll, T.	25	27	30	82	Boville, T. C.	17	23	24	64
McDonald, J. W.	24	29	29	82	King, R. P.	24	19	21	64
Nutting, J. P.	27	29	26	82	Pratt, H.	25	28	10	63
Hutchison, Dr. G.	27	30	22	79	Morrison, N.	18	23	21	62
Perley, Major H. F.	27	27	24	78	Cox, Capt. C. F.	18	16	21	55
Wright, Capt. J.	29	27	20	76	Coste	19	17	19	55
Taylor, J. D.	26	26	23	75	Lightfoot, F. C.	22	17	16	55
Fairweather, J. H.	28	23	22	73	Moodie	23	18	12	53
Bell, Capt. B. B.	28	25	20	73	Slade	17	17	15	49
Hutcheson, J. E.	20	28	24	72	Matthews, Jas	23	11	14	48
Brown	25	23	21	69	Bishop	18	16	11	45
Jamieson, W. A.	19	25	24	68	Stewart, R.	12	23	8	43
McKay, H.	26	21	21	68	Scott, C. S.	7	19	7	33
Smith, F. D.	27	22	19	68	Hurdman, Dr. B. F.	25	27	52	

Sutherland takes the senior spoon, and the junior rests between McDonald and Nutting. The former is a new member and has not yet been classified; should he be declared a senior, Nutting gets the spoon; otherwise they will have to shoot off for its possession, a new rule of the club establishing that ties are to be decided in future by firing three shots at the longest range, and additional single shots until decided.

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