

I have frequently seen a man just in the "sixty," by a good score get a place on the team. In 1888 Staff-Sergt. Ashall, Q.O.R., was just one point above the score of the 60th place, but by making 84, a moderate score only, in the Governor-General's match, he went to Wimbledon next year. See what a score a few points better would have done for anyone of the numerous debarred! Under the present arrangement I would have the Wimbledon team open to the first hundred in the Grand Aggregate, or, for that matter, to anyone who thought he had a chance and paid his entrance fee of say \$1.00.

This would not increase, to any great extent, the number of competitors who have to fire on Friday, and there is ample time and target accommodation.

I have now to suggest a scheme for the selection of the team by Martini shooting only, a consummation which I think all will agree that it is very desirable to effect, if at all feasible.

Surely the Wimbledon team is of sufficient importance to devote an additional day to its selection. The only fixtures for Friday are the Governor-General's and Provincial matches. By utilising all the spare time of Friday and adding Saturday, it would be possible I think to have a Queen's range competition on the forenoon and afternoon of each day for those who had entered for the team. My reason for thinking so is, that I do not suppose that more than one half, if so many, of the competitors annually at Ottawa would, from their business relations or personal inclinations, care any one year to go on the team. Consequently as we can shoot the Dominion of Canada match through in one day, and have a couple of hours to spare, with half the number of competitors we can get through it twice. These four shoots, together with the two Martini competitions in the regular programme, would give ninety-eight shots as against ninety-four at present, only thirty five of which are with the Martini. This would be a pretty good test of a man's ability with the Martini, and could not fail to give better results than our present system. All shooting men know what two very different rifles the Snider and Martini are, and how many a man who is an excellent shot with the Snider, fails most lamentably when he comes to use the Martini.

Entries would be made for the Wimbledon team just as for any of the regular matches, and an entrance fee charged. Prizes should be offered, but paid only on the team reporting at Montreal.

But, Mr. Editor, I am afraid I have already taken up too much of your space, and must close. I should like very much to hear from some of our level-headed riflemen on this subject.

E. D. SUTHERLAND.

Ottawa, 23rd January, 1890.

A Young Shot Who Courts Competition.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—In your issue of 5th January "Old School" expresses his opinion on "Encouragement to young shots," and I now desire you to kindly give one of those same young shots a chance to express his. The writer signing as "Old School" without doubt is honest in his intentions, but I for one young shot do not agree with him. He asks for a change in the rules of the rifle associations whereby celebrated shots are to be debarred from winning prizes in order to give young shots a chance. In other words the men who have devoted years to the rifle, who have brought shooting in Canada to its present excellence, and who time and again have won honour for our country at Wimbledon, are to be set aside—laid on the shelf—in favour of men who are their inferiors, either because they are unfitted to be marksmen, or from lack of long practice, of nerve, and application.

What more encouragement had the twenty who this year go to Wimbledon, in learning, than I who handled a rifle last year for the first time?

I went to Ottawa last September and missed the targets oftener than I hit them, never appearing in the prize lists, yet I did not grudge those who, by their coolness, nerve and science, won the prizes, their just reward. Instead, I came away with the resolve that if it were in my power, the next year would tell another tale; if it does not, it will be by a fault of mine which must be overcome sooner or later. No, my "Old School," those young shots who have the jealousy, the lack of ambition, and cowardice you ascribe to them, are far better at home, and let those men who have honestly won their laurels, retain them, till age brings failing powers—may that be many a day from this!

He says "England must think our shots are composed of about 100 men." Well, England would be just about right, and will honour Canada in that she has so many. "Old School" waxes wroth about the appliances used by the "crack shot of the range"; I think he shows a good deal of presumption in criticising the gentlemen who frame the rules of the D. R. A., and it would be nearly as bad for one with so little experience as myself to defend them: let a more able man do that. All honour to "Old School" for his services to our country; and all thanks to him for his plea for young shots; but let young shots

have the manliness to fight their way, else what will Canada be at Wimbledon? or worse thought still, in the battle field, if they have no obstacles to overcome, no ambition to excel, no Mitchells, Gibsons or Margetts to equal.

"OUTERS."

Port Elgin, 25th January, 1890.

The Proposed Efficiency Competition.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I notice in your issue of the 23rd inst. a letter from Captain Harston of the Royal Grenadiers in reference to getting up friendly competitions between the different militia infantry corps of the Dominion. I quite agree with his ideas, and believe that all who would enter into such laudable competitions would be very much benefited by them, from an efficiency point of view, and they would also raise the *esprit de corps*. I hope that some of the leading officers in the force will take the matter up, and put it into practical shape at an early day. But in one part of his letter I cannot help feeling that the ingenious Captain has slighted our battalion (I can hardly believe intentionally), for in speaking of those battalions which no doubt struck him at the time as being the most efficient, he never mentioned the 13th at all. Now I beg to inform the Captain that the 13th should have been placed at the head of the list, at least in their efficiency in the use of the rifle, which after all is the greatest requisite of a soldier on the field. Had he been in our drill hall on the night of our companies drill competitions, and seen the way in which they acquitted themselves, he would not, in writing about the leading battalions, have omitted the 13th. We have performed a grand work in the militia force of the Dominion. As a training school I think I may safely say we have taught a greater number of young men within the last twenty-five years to fairly acquit themselves on the field than any other battalion in the Dominion, and the reason is that our ranks have all along been filled by mechanics, who are of a migratory nature, and do not stay more than two years on an average in one place, so that every year we have to fill up the different companies with recruits, which of course tells against us at our annual inspections; but within the last six months we have got more of a mixed class of young men, who we will be more likely to retain for a longer period of time, than ever we did before. In the same time we have also made a greater stride in efficiency in drill than ever we did in double the time in my recollection. In six months from now our battalion can compete in drill with any other in the Dominion, and I don't fear the result. But I am taking up too much of your space, so I will say no more.

JAMES ADAM,

Captain and Musketry Instructor.

Hamilton, 27th January, 1890.

Paid Adjutants.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—As Parliament has now assembled it will not be amiss to urge upon the members, especially those who hold commissions in the militia, that the feeling is rapidly gaining ground throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, that the affairs of the militia deserve more general consideration with a view to improvement. It is a well known fact that the self-sacrificing officers of our best regiments have not only to give up their time and pleasures, but have to make heavy calls on their pockets in order to keep their regiments up to anything like a serviceable condition, and the people of this Dominion are not so "poverty stricken" or so "mean," as to wish that this state of things should last. If this country was so hard up that it could not afford to provide for its defence, then there would be some reason for permitting our patriotic officers paying the bill wholly out of their own pockets; but it is not so. On the contrary, not a session passes but we see large grants of a liberal character made to all sorts of deserving objects—railways, canals, wharves, docks, harbours, post offices and all sorts of objects which really are of little benefit except as local improvements to the various localities in which they are made, and in the most part, wisely made. If the country can afford to go in for these expensive luxuries does anyone credit it for a single moment that the country wishes that our gallant defenders should be starved to death? No! a thousand times no! The country is fully alive to the absolute necessity of preserving and improving our wonderfully economical "defensive force." That the country also recognizes the absolute necessity of having a body of trained defenders has been shown many times. One needs only to quote to prove this, the unanimity with which the permanent force was established and the expense undertaken, without a grumble, and indeed, with general approval, for the sole object of having schools in which to train our officers and men.

This being so, is it likely that the country would grumble at the very slight additional expense which would be entailed by having paid adjutants? Surely not; and moreover, this move is really a necessity,