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Topics of the Week.

Attention is drawn to the notice from the Secretary of the Canadian Military Rifle League, appearing in our advertising columns, calling for the fees of those teams it is proposed to enter. There should be a prompt response, for no definite arrangements as to prizes can be made until the management have a fair idea of the funds to be placed at their disposal.

It is announced in the daily press this week that the Commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, will be glad to hear from any officer of the Canadian forces interested in initiating and establishing an organized system of messenger pigeon stations throughout the country. Officers of any of the undernoted towns are especially appealed to for co-operation: Windsor, London, Goderich, St. Catharines, Toronto, Peterboro, Ottawa, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Kamouraska, Rimouski, Colebrook, Fredericton, St. John, Chatham, St. Anne's, Gaspé, Pictou, Halifax.

There is a marked tendency on the part of the permanent force to devote more attention to rifle shooting, which most important branch of instruction has received very insignificant attention from them in the past. In his last annual report, General Middleton advocated the establishment in Canada of a school of musketry instruction; and perhaps inspired by that recommendation two young officers of the Infantry School Corps have applied for leave to go to England, it is understood with the intention of taking a course of instruction at Hythe. These officers are Lieut. Evans, of C company, Toronto; and Lieut. Denison of D company, London. The establishment of a separate institution would be a source of expense which perhaps could well be avoided; but it will be an unmistakable advantage to have in connection with the present schools officers available for thorough practical instruction in the use of the rifle.

Annually since 1885 the newspapers of England and America have been furnished by industrious Ottawa correspondents with sensational stories of the disappearance from the fort at Battleford of a fabulous

quantity of furs of rich and rare quality, the property of Charles Bremner, a Bressaylor trader, who placed his furs in the fort for safe-keeping when he was arrested for supposed complicity in the rebellion. He was acquitted of the charge, but during his imprisonment the furs disappeared. Bremner has been seeking ever since to recover them or their value. He is in a fair way now to receive from the Government the ascertained value of the lost property, probably about \$3,500; and a parliamentary committee has been appointed to sift the charge made on Bremner's behalf that the furs were appropriated by Gen. Middleton, Lieut.-Col. Bedson, Warden of the Manitoba Penitentiary, and Mr. Hayter Reed, Indian Commissioner. The story is that the furs left Battleford in three packages addressed to these officers respectively. The charge that they appropriated and divided the spoil finds little credence in Parliament or with the public, but when this session a Member was found to champion Bremner's cause and to demand a commission of inquiry, General Middleton intimated to the Government his anxiety that the fullest investigation possible should be made, and the committee has accordingly been named. It consists of Messrs. McNeill, Tisdale, Girouard, Wood of Westmoreland, Weldon of St. John, Casgrain and Holton; together with Mr. Lister, on behalf of Mr. Bremner; and Mr. Kirkpatrick on behalf of the officers concerned in the charge.

A subject which the council of the Dominion Rifle Association might with propriety consider is the extension of the right to participate in all its matches to the members of rifle associations in the North-West, where there are no militia, and also to members of the North-West Mounted Police. The distance is so great that probably very few competitors would come to the Ottawa meeting from the far North-West, but the fact that all the matches here were open to such as chose to come, and that they would be allowed to take the places they could win on the Wimbledon team, would be a great encouragement to the North-West riflemen to keep up the practice they have so zealously commenced. In order to give the D. R. A. council something definite to work upon, we suggest to the officers of the rifle associations and of the Police that they make formal application for admission to the privileges allowed the militia in old Canada. We much mistake the sentiments of the council if they would refuse such an application.

The National Rifle Association.

The annual general meeting of the National Rifle Association was held at the Royal United Service Institution, London, on Thursday, the 27th February, Brigadier General Lord Wantage, V.C., K.C.B., Chairman of the Council, presiding in the absence abroad of the President, H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge. The meeting proved to be one of more than usual interest, on account of the change of shooting headquarters of the association being made this year from Wimbledon to Bisley. No specific changes in the shooting conditions were announced, though Lord Wantage intimated that orthoptics would probably not be allowed