

ment, writing to the "Times," makes several novel suggestions in connection with the decision of the War Office authorities to grant the Volunteer medal for twenty years' service, subject to the "meritorious" reservation. The Colonel writes:—"It would appear desirable that for the future 'meritorious' service should be strictly defined. By this means a great opportunity may be afforded of largely increasing the discipline of the force. For instance, if the annual certificate of efficiency contain a record of conduct, say, 'fair' 'good,' 'very good,' and 'excellent,' and any man having only 'fair' conduct would lose one year's qualifying period towards the medal, whilst 'good' would require to have three 'very good' or 'excellent' to follow it to count as meritorious, I think a much greater hold could be obtained over the men."

In continuance of the foregoing, Colonel Haddan proposes that, in reference "to minor offences, such as dirty rifle, not bringing rifle to headquarters when ordered, not replying to circulars, not communicating change of address, etc., the captain should keep a book of 'punishments'—a given number of bad points in one year enabling the commanding officer to determine the conduct to be inscribed on the certificate—whilst corresponding good points could be earned and recorded for attendance at brigade camp, large gatherings in uniform, good shooting, field practices, judging distances, and so on. Men will then realise that every act, whether good or indifferent, is carefully noted." Colonel Haddan adds that he would willingly award good conduct badges, on an approved scale, for service and conduct to shorter term men, so that all "might have an inducement to always act for the best in their battalions, and be a credit to the force as a whole."

The forming of the Bisley Competitors' Committee is exciting interest and provoking comment in the provinces. The "Liverpool Post" refers to the matter in the following terms:—"Major Heap, of the 2nd Manchester, who is as well-known at Altcar as he is at Bisley, has undertaken a responsible post in becoming chairman of the Bisley Competitors' Committee. The committee has been formed to ventilate grievances and to adjust them, to see that all competitors are treated fairly and with civility, and, in other words, to advocate their rights. A Bisley competitor's career is beset with many petty annoyances which could easily, and in future must, be obviated. For instance, the report of the committee referred to, which has just been submitted for the consideration of the council of the National Rifle Association, is so interesting to the thousands of Lancashire, Cheshire, Northern, and Welsh Volunteers who annually compete for the Queen's and other prizes that extracts from it will be read with much interest by them, while the general public will gain an insight into the matters that they are ignorant of."

The highest officers in our army in India, says the "British Medical Journal," continue to bear unmistakable testimony to the marked influence for good which the work of the Army Temperance Association has had upon the health and conduct of our soldiers. Gen. Sir H. Collett has stated that in an army of abstainers there would be one hundredth part of the present crime, and one-tenth part of the present sickness. Gen. Sir G. S. White has said that if he wanted men on whom he could depend, who would most readily turn out in an emergency, and who could be entrusted to perform any duty, he would go straight to the rooms of the Army Temperance Association. The admission into army hospitals in India last year were of total abstainers 5 per cent., and of non-abstainers 10.4 per cent. Minor offences were only 1.5 per cent, among the abstainers, against 6.7 per cent. among the non-abstainers. There was but one court-martial on one out of every 1,224 water drinkers, while there was one of out every 19 of the others. Mental and bodily health both benefit by abstinence.

That grand old man of the British Army its oldest officer, we believe, on Monday celebrated his ninetieth birthday. We allude, of course, to Field-Marshal Sir Patrick Grant, who since 1874, has enjoyed a position of dignity and comparative ease as governor of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, and who, by the way, was the first witness examined by the recent committee. Sir Patrick's connection with the forces dates back to 1820, the birth year of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief, and during the stormy period which ended with the Indian Mutiny, the veteran saw and took part in plenty of fighting.

The correspondent of the "Figaro," who has been for the last few days at Metz investigating the circumstances attending the arrest of Mdme. Ismert on a charge of espionage, states that there are innumerable signs on the frontier that the relations between France and Germany really have improved, and that the latter is making an effort to treat the French with a certain amount of friendship and consideration. In Alsace-Lorraine it must be admitted that the people no longer scowl at their new masters, but accept the change with resignation and contentment. At the same time the two provinces are far from being Germanised. On the contrary, the long stay there of a German Government official invariably causes him to become more like a Frenchman as the months go by. The exchange of courtesies by the officers of both nations stationed on the frontier is a matter of every day occurrence it is said, and friendly visits are constantly being made by one to the other. In opposition to this point of view the "Eclair" records that a determined agitation is being got up by Germans at Metz against the Bishop there, who continues to pray for France. This is said to be considered high treason, and a stringent revision of the Liturgy is called for.

## News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE

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## AT THE RANGES.

### Toronto.

The annual rifle matches of the Queen's Own Rifles were held at the Long Branch rifle ranges Saturday, Sept. 22nd, and about 250 members of the regiment turned out.

All the matches with the exception of one—the Martini—were fired with the regimental short Snider. There was a strong wind blowing, nevertheless there some very good scores made and the shooting altogether, considering the unfavorable circumstances, was well up to the average.

Following are the scores :

#### STANDING MATCH.

Open to members of the regiment—Range, 200 yards; position, standing; rounds, five; rifle, short Snider.

\$10	Lt J B Miller, C co.....	21
10	Pte Armstrong, G co.....	21
7	A R Macdonald, C co.....	20
6	Corp Cliff, B co.....	20
6	Pte W Gibson, E co.....	20
5	Pte J Gibson, E co.....	20
5	Capt R Rennie, K co.....	20
5	Lieut E P McNeill, H co.....	19
5	Stf-Sgt Donnelly, A co.....	19
4	Bugler-Sgt Woods, D co.....	18
4	Lt-Col Hamilton, staff.....	18
3	Lt Crean, I co.....	18
3	Lt J M Davidson, D co.....	18
3	Pte Bullard, H co.....	18
3	Pte H R Jackson, I co.....	18
3	Pte E Westman, A co.....	18
3	Sgt Saunders, F co.....	18
3	Pte H H Brown, B co.....	17
3	Corp Sampson, K co.....	17
2.50	Col-Sergt Creighton, B co....	17
2.50	Col-Sgt Meadows, A co.....	17
2.50	Pte G Keys, E co.....	16
2	Corp J T White, C co.....	16
2	Sergt T C Orr, C co.....	16

#### THE GENERAL MATCH.

Open to members of the regiment; ranges and positions, 200 yards kneeling, 400 and 500 yards any, with head to target; rounds, seven at each range; rifle, short Snider.

\$50	Bugle-Sgt J Woods, D co.....	87
40	Corp Sampson, K co.....	87
20	Q M-Sgt J O Thorn, G co.....	87
20	Pte R H Dee, A co.....	87
15	Lt J F Crean, I co.....	86
14	Color-Sgt G Creighton, B co....	86
12	Lt J M Davison, D co.....	85
10	Lt A D Crooks, A co.....	84
10	Color-Sgt W H Meadows, A co	84
10	Lt E P McNeil, H co.....	82
10	Sergt Pearcey, K co.....	80
10	Pte Blaney, K co.....	80
8	Pte F Howland, H co.....	79
8	Pte G Mussen, I co.....	79
8	Capt Mercer, staff.....	78