

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Topics of the Week.

At the D. R. A. competitors "grievance" meeting, held Tuesday evening, the complaints were very few, the competitors being in good humor about nearly everything but the Rideau wind, which they are not so hard as to ask the executive to control. The exceptions were complaints of the scant accommodation for the many extra series matches upon the programme, and—we note it with sorrow—of the quality of the Snider ammunition of present issue. The suggested remedy for the former was the substitution of pool shooting for some of the extra series, so that, being allowed to fire but two shots in place of five at a time, all the competitors might have a chance to get their elevation and windage before going into a regular match; in place of only one-half or one-third the whole number having an opportunity, as at present. The complaint against the ammunition was twofold: first, that it is a very common occurrence for the "anvil" to become detached by the firing, and to remain in the rifle when the cartridge case is extracted; and second, that an uncommonly large number of drop shots are being recorded. Of the general excellence of the ammunition there is no question—the remarkably high scoring prevailing all summer bearing eloquent testimony. But it seems to be a fact that there are defects due to somebody's negligence, and the origin of these defects is now being made the subject of inquiry by the Militia Department. Unfortunately, it was not until last week that the Department received any intimation whatever that the ammunition had ceased to be above reproach, else the fault might have been discovered and remedied ere now. As it is, Sir Adolphe Caron has lost no time in instituting an inquiry.

The place to give preliminary training to a gentleman whom it is desirable to have act as a range officer, is not a Dominion or Provincial meeting, where the competitors are supposed to abide strictly by the rules laid down, but are too often annoyed by officers unacquainted with these rules inventing others on the spur of the moment to settle points in dispute. When the competitor protests against any such ruling, he is promptly snubbed by being told to appeal to the executive if he does not like what he is told. An appeal to the executive will not help a score spoiled by a range officer's nagging; and he must be an influential member indeed who can induce any executive to act upon a complaint with sufficient promptitude to have any effect at that meeting. The MILITIA GAZETTE has been asked to give prominence to this grievance, which has been keenly felt at some of this year's meetings. It is not necessary to mention names, days and dates, because these have been personally intimated to the executives, who it is hoped will give the subject serious attention when appointing range officers in the future. The injunction "read the regulations" should not be for the competitors only.

It looks bright for the future of rifle shooting in the permanent corps when one sees the gratifying frequency with which the names of members of that body are appearing this season in the Provincial and Dominion prize lists. True, the representation at the Dominion meeting in progress this week is not by any means so large as had been hoped, but then it must be remembered that rifle shooting is a very expensive pastime, and the men of the permanent force having no financial resources but their daily pay cannot afford to indulge very extensively in it. In the Ontario prize list, published elsewhere in this issue, it will be noticed that a team from D Co. of the Infantry School Corps distinguished itself at Toronto by taking a prize in each of the military matches, and the names of D Company men appeared quite often on the individual prize lists, Sergt.-Major Munroe doing so well as to obtain a place on the grand aggregate.

By the time this week's issue reaches its readers the Dominion rifle meeting for 1889 will be over. In order that the record may be kept complete in one number, we publish none of the scores this week, but those of the New Brunswick and Ontario meetings monopolize the space. From all the provinces encouraging reports have come of progress over previous years, and the natural result is seen in the largest Dominion entry ever recorded at Rideau range. The accommodation there was taxed to the utmost to complete the firing within the prescribed time, and it becomes evident that the steps being taken by the council to secure increased target accommodation are fully warranted by the demand.

## Ontario Rifle Association.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Rifle Association commenced Monday, 26th inst., on the Garrison commons Toronto, and continued until Thursday night. There were all told 303 entries. The ranges have been greatly improved this season. A new firing point has been built at the 600 yard range, and all the targets in use are new. Instead of the white target, as formerly used, cream coloured ones have been adopted, which proved a nuisance to the marksmen, who hope the white target will be reverted to. The association has adopted the new time system in firing, which is working satisfactorily.

The range officers were Lieut.-Col. Boswell, 90th Batt., Winnipeg; Major Hodgins, G.G.F.G., Ottawa; and Capt. Manly, R.G., Toronto.

"CANADA COMPANY," presented by the Canada Company of London, England, with \$50 added by Col. Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen. Restricted to the active militia of Ontario who have never won a prize at any provincial or Dominion rifle association match, not including consolation matches. Description of rifle—Class I. (S). Ranges—200 and 400 yards. Number of rounds at each range—Five. Position—200 yards kneeling (Hythe), 400 yards any. Entrance fee—Teams 65 cents for individual prizes, including ammunition.

\$10, Pte. W. Kenny, 45th.....	43	\$4, Pte. R. Hooper, 13th.....	40
7, Bugle Maj. Finkin, 13th.....	43	4, Pte. J. C. Dixon, 21st.....	40
5, Pte. W. Gallen, 77th.....	43	3, Sergt. J. W. Jones, 37th.....	39
5, Corp. Traverse, R. G.....	43	3, Sergt. Beaumont, "D" I.S.C.....	39
5, Pte. Bowen, 44th.....	42	3, Pte. Herberton, Q.O.R.....	39
5, Corp. O'Brien, "D" I.S.C.....	42	3, Pte. Heaven, 20th.....	39
4, Pte. Dickson, 77th.....	42	3, G. E. Whiten, O.R.A.....	39
4, Col.-Sergt. Graham, "G" R. A.	41	3, Sergt. F. Toogood, O.R.A.....	39
4, Pte. Smilser, 37th.....	41	3, Major Thom, R. L.....	39
4, Corp. Thorne, Q.O.R.....	41	3, Lieut. A. Lee, 77th.....	39
4, Pte. Wyndatt, 45th.....	41	3, Pte. R. Moodie, 43rd.....	38
4, Sergt. Jardine, 29th.....	41	3, Col.-Sergt. Bradley, L.R.A.....	38
4, Corp. McGregor, 77th.....	41	3, Pte. W. Peacock, 28th Batt.....	38
4, Pte. A. J. Green, 21st.....	40		