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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Council of the Dominion Rifle Association are called to meet at Ottawa on Tuesday, the 7th April. The chief business to be transacted will be the selection of members to be offered places on the Bisley team for 1891, and arranging preliminaries for the annual prize meeting.

The proposition that a team should be sent to Shoeburyness this year will form the subject of discussion at a meeting of the Council of the Dominion Artillery Association called for Wednesday 8th April, and to be held in the office of the Inspector of Artillery at Ottawa. In his annual report, appearing in that of the Militia Department, the Inspector of Artillery recommends that arrangements should be made whereby the Garrison artillery practice could this year be held at or near local headquarters, and the extra cost of the usual Orleans meeting devoted towards sending a team to Shoeburyness, and it is to consider such a suggestion which Col. Irwin has now submitted to the Council that this meeting is called. It is further proposed, should a team be agreed upon, to send only members of the Garrison artillery, in place of giving the Field branch and the Royal Military College the large representation heretofore accorded them. In 1886 the membership was 2 from the College, 4 from A and B batteries, 6 from the Field batteries and 8 from the Garrison Batteries, and on the two previous occasions when teams were sent the representation was similar, but in justification of the proposed change it is pointed out that there is no competition at Shoeburyness for Field batteries and that the Government grant of \$2,000 is donated to be applied to a Garrison meet at Orleans in the event of no team being sent. It is proposed that the team of 21 members should be made up from the several brigades and independent batteries in proportion to the batteries affiliated, and that the difference between the Government grant of \$2,000 and the \$3,000 which the trip would probably cost, should be made up by subscriptions collected by the officers of each battery or brigade represented. There is said to be considerable divergence of opinion about the matter, so that the action of the Council will be awaited with interest.

The result of the balloting between Quartermaster Gratwicke and Lord Lathom for the vacancy on the Council of the National Rifle Association, was to have been announced at a general meeting of the members on the 24th inst., so

that the matter is probably decided by this time. While not declaring the course they intend to take in the event of the defeat of their candidate, the Council have issued an address expressing the hope that the members of the Association "will in this matter of Lord Lathom's election give them their confidence and support." From the tone of the Volunteer press, it seems as if many who would like to mark their ballots for Quartermaster Gratwicke, as an experienced practical shot, will refrain from doing so lest the Council should feel discouraged at such a return for the especially valuable services they have rendered in connection with the change of site and the financial difficulties involved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

TEAM SHOOTING AT D. R. A.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Allow me, through the medium of your widespread paper, to get the views of the shooting corps generally throughout the country on a subject that has been in my mind for some time, and on which I have spoken to quite a few, all of whom are of the same opinion as myself.

Now, every man that attends the D. R. A. matches at Ottawa knows very well that the "Dominion of Canada Match," as regards the teams, is not a fair competition to decide who are the five champion shots of a corps, for this reason, that where five men are named (as now) as a rule, one, and sometimes two, make a *break*, and come very near destroying the chances of the other three; however, the team wins by a few points, and the two low men receive the same honours of a badge as the others. Is that fair?

What I would suggest is that the said match be for the five or eight highest aggregate scores of any corps *without* being previously named; by that means every man would have to shoot on his *own* merits, and must *win* a badge before wearing it; also, it would entirely do away with any *favouritism* that a regimental committee could (and sometimes do) show when naming a team, as well as make the work of an *impartial* committee much lighter, by relieving it of the responsibility of naming the last one or two men when there are two or three that have been shooting equally as well, but because they have not had the experience and are not *tried* men on a team they are left out (how, then, are they to be tried?) but who very often not only beat the last team man but shoot up so well as to equal some of the top scores.

Also, I would strongly advocate increasing the number of a team from five to eight, or even ten, which, to my mind, is more like a *representative* team than five.