

We publish this week the scores in the Provincial matches for Ontario and New Brunswick, and it will be found that in both alike the attendance was smaller and the scores lower than in previous years. The falling off in attendance is a matter requiring the attention of the executives, as it may mean a diminution in interest in these matches, and if so, some means must be devised to attract anew. It is just possible that in the endeavor to encourage young shots the prizes have been stretched too far, and that the feeling of having too much shooting for too little money may keep some of the better shots away. It might be well to reduce the number of the matches, and, without decreasing the number of prizes in those remaining, to materially increase their value. At any rate the matter is worth discussion.

The *Victoria Warder* continues to bestow considerable space on militia matters, as might be expected when we know that its editor is an enthusiastic volunteer. We wish every paper in the Dominion, no matter which party it supports, would emulate its zeal, and we should soon have more interest taken in the force, and more known about its capabilities, its defects, and its wants. This week we have to acknowledge from the *Warder* a kind commendation of our own venture, and to assure it that its encouragement is appreciated.

WIMBLEDON.

What's in a name? Mayhap little of consequence, but no one will deny that a halo surrounds the word "Wimbledon" in the dream of every aspirant to shooting honors. What is the key-note of the Dominion meeting to-day? Ask the old veteran, who has crossed the channel half a dozen times and who has grown gray making bulls' eyes. Ask the recruit who comes up to Ottawa for the first time; ask the successful competitor in years gone by, the medium shot who comes in at the tail, or the ever present individual who is always being "counted out;" ask one, ask all. Only one answer—the word "Wimbledon." Who was ever tired of going to Wimbledon? Who ever regretted being on the team—except the man who couldn't go? Who are deemed the lucky, happy men at the end of the meeting? Only the "Wimbledon twenty."

Long may the Dominion Rifle Association continue to send its twenty champions across the sea to do battle for Canada. In doing so the Association encourages, in a most practical way, the cause of marksmanship in the land, and invites the youth of to-day to come up year by year a better and a more careful shot, till ultimately he finds himself one of the chosen band—one of the representatives of the Dominion at the rifle tournament of the world.

The team of 1885 have crossed and re-crossed the Atlantic, and the Wimbledon meeting of the year is a thing of the past. How have our boys acquitted themselves in the task they had before them? Have they, like their predecessors, upheld the honor of our Dominion? Right nobly they did their duty, and leave behind them a record which the twenties in years to come will find hard to surpass. In the eyes of Canada they only failed in one thing, they lost the Kolapore cups. The veterans of 15 years' team shooting who compose the mother country squad, topped the list. The battle was fought on a day when it required all the skill of years of Wimbledon experience to make a score. The men of the Channel Islands, who have at last worked up teams of great excellence, better acquainted with mirage and its difficulties, followed hard on the heels of the home team and left Canada last in the race. The lesson learned will be a useful one, and the defeat of our team will doubtless prove a blessing in disguise. We lost the Kolapore cups, but the team of 1885 will be remembered as the only one which has been able, against 2,500 competitors, to place three men in the Queen's sixty; to bring from Wimbledon in one year three Queen's badges. Enough to stamp the team as one of the first quality, but better than all it was able to place three men in the grand aggregate over the meeting and bring away the unprecedented number of three crosses in this severe competition. We therefore conclude that the Canadian riflemen did their duty, and that they have made the name of Canada still further respected among the riflemen of Great Britain.

What they have done and what they have failed to do has been brought home to the practical mind of the popular Colonel in command, and we doubt not that he will be able to suggest schemes for even greater success in years to come.

Let the boys of 1886 emulate the deeds of their predecessors, and there will be no fear for the good name of Canada going down on Wimbledon common.

In sending her twenty riflemen every year to Wimbledon, Canada is doing much to encourage her militia at home. She is also doing much in this way to make Canada known abroad. The Canadian Wimbledon team can therefore claim to be a powerful and popular factor in the development of the Dominion it represents.

RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—XVI.

BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

IV.

Having spoken of the rifle and its accessories from historical, manufacturing and theoretical points of view, it is now proposed to allude to some of the details relevant to shooting, and though much—perhaps all of what will be stated may be known to many of the readers of this paper, yet it is offered with the hope that some benefit may accrue to those who read and who also take an interest in shooting and are desirous of improving themselves. What is to follow is not given as the result of personal experience and investigation, and does not possess any claim in that way to originality, but is the result of a careful study of the best and latest publications to be obtained, and a compilation of such portions as have been found to be applicable to the subject.

Shooting is an art, excellence in which may be attained by any man having the fair use of his eyes and limbs, combined with a moderate degree of intelligence, if he be only anxious enough to desire to do so. This desire to become a good shot is evinced by a man's evident wish and endeavour to understand the theory or reason why of every little thing connected with his preliminary instruction and ball-practice; by his attention to those small matters which at first sight appear so really trivial as to be beneath notice, but which are of great importance; and also by his care when engaged in practice or at a match in noting carefully the circumstances and influences which can, or may have a possible effect on his shooting. There are many men to be met with who are baffled in their earnest attempts to secure uniformly good results from their practice, who come to grief, and cannot understand why they fail at one time and do well at another. The obvious cause of this is, that they are not in possession of a sufficiency of knowledge to enable them to decide what they ought to do on a particular day and under particular circumstances, but are content to enquire of their neighbor, "where did you aim," "what windage did you allow," "what elevation do you use," etc., and it sometimes happens that not very correct replies are given, especially at a match when each is for himself. If to such what follows will be of any benefit, it will be felt that the time spent in preparing the information will not have been thrown away.

"The soldier is armed so that he may in battle hurt or kill some body with his rifle, and the sooner he learns how to do so the better the soldier." Thus wrote General Ord of the U. S. Service. General Terry of the same service in a "General Order," said "no one can doubt that the average capacity of men to learn how to use their arms effectively is the same in all companies and at all posts. It cannot be supposed that there are any essential differences in the average of either physical or mental qualification in the different parts into which the army is divided. This being the case, the different results obtained in different organizations must be due to the officers in command, and to the officers alone. Where officers are obedient and carry out in good faith the orders respecting rifle practice; where they are intelligent and zealous; where they not only demand obedience from their men, but seek to awaken their interest in this, the most important part of their instruction; and especially where they endeavor to excite emulation in practising with their men and becoming good shots themselves, excellent results will assuredly follow. But when officers are disobedient and fail to carry out with precision the orders of their superiors; when they are indifferent and lukewarm, when the instruction which it is their duty to give, is given in a mechanical and perfunctory manner, without warmth or interest, their men will as assuredly fail to learn the use of their arms, and under existing conditions of warfare they will be nearly worthless as soldiers. In these days of arms of precision, and with the tactics which these arms have made necessary, the man who has not been taught to attain his mark with reasonable frequency, at distances much greater than one or two hundred yards, is an incumbrance rather than a helper on the battlefield. Moreover, offensive power in action is defensive power also. Indeed there is no other defensive power, except perhaps, the power to run away, and inasmuch as the Depart-