

the different ranges, or as to which of the several ranges shall be fired first.

Last year's arrangements as to telegraphing are expected to hold good, with the possible exception of some of the more remote localities, for which whatever arrangements are found to be necessary will be duly made.

The matters of entrance fees and of prizes and badges remain unsettled, but there seems to be a general feeling that it is not advisable to spend much money on trophies to be contested for under conditions at the best very uneven; and that the funds realized from entries should be applied mainly in the encouragement of the attendance of the teams at the Dominion Rifle Meeting, there to contest on common ground for the main trophy of the competition.

The dates proposed are the 16th and 30th of May, the 11th and 25th July, and the 8th August—five matches in all. There is still a wide difference of opinion as to ranges, one proposition being 200, 400 and 500 yards, 7 shots, for all five matches, and another, strongly advocated, being the above ranges for the first, second and fourth matches, 200, 500 and 600 yards for the third; and 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards for the fifth match, with only five shots at each of the four ranges of the last match. It will be noticed that one of these schemes drops 600 yards altogether, whilst the other gives but twelve shots at that distance.

It is expected that the friends of the League will again be to the fore with special prizes to add interest to the shooting. Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, announced at last year's presentation that he would offer a trophy; and Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson has promised a President's prize, so that the list is well started. A suggestion which met with much favour at the Ontario Executive meeting was that the Caron trophy should be competed for at the Dominion Rifle Meeting, to be awarded to the League competitor highest in the aggregate of the Snider matches exclusive of the Standing match; and also that in this match an entrance fee should be charged by the League, the proceeds to go towards providing other prizes than the Caron trophy.

The Government's liberal grant of free ammunition made last year standing good for this season also, commanding officers all over the country should make an effort to have their corps well represented by League teams. Last year's experience in connection with the League matches, where all the ammunition was free, and also with respect to the increased grant for class-firing purposes, showed rather a lack of appreciation of the efforts made by those in authority to assist in the development of rifle practice. Possibly there was not time to make proper preparation for availing of these grants of ammunition, but there can be no excuse for not making use this year of the opportunities afforded.

Through the courtesy of the publishers of *Outing*, we are permitted to print the interesting if brief story of the Monreal corps told by Capt. Thos. S. Blackwell (54th) in that

enterprising publication. In the January number, there appeared the opening chapter of a series he is to contribute on the Canadian Militia; and February brought a generous second instalment, even more interesting than the first. The matter is handsomely illustrated with portraits of commanding officers past and present, of other noted men of the force, and of buildings, trophies and military scenes, the pictures alone making it well worth while for any military man to possess himself of the numbers of *Outing* through which Capt. Blackwell's article will run. The magazine well maintains its widespread reputation for general excellence, and deserves from the reading public generally the hearty support and encouragement which the military features of the current numbers should elicit from the friends of our militia.

We have been favoured with a copy of the menu and invitation cards for the first annual dinner of the Sergeants' Mess of the Fourteenth Princess of Wales Own Rifles, Kingston, and have great pleasure in offering congratulations to the Mess upon the happy design and skilful execution of the cards. They are the handsomest we have seen for a good while, and the poetical sentiments accompanying the toasts have been very happily chosen. By all accounts the Sergeants' Mess of the P. W. O. R. is a lively institution, and we hope the correspondent who has kindly reported the dinner proceedings will be heard from often in the future.

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.)

THE TRAINING OF OFFICERS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have just read C. F. C.'s letter, and it made me feel a little as if I were on a jury and listening to counsel for the prosecution, who was determined to secure a conviction at all costs.

It is of course very deplorable that there should be over 800 unqualified officers in the militia; but "what are you going to do about it?" What is the remedy? Striking them all off seems too drastic. Neither is scolding likely to improve matters. Isn't it better, as Major Mayne says in his lecture, to "make the best use of the material you have." It must be remembered that the fact that they have not yet taken out certificates is only *prima facie* evidence that they are not qualified. Many of them, I have no doubt, are, as officers should be, leaders of their men in the best sense of the word. In the same way possession of a certificate does not prove that a man is qualified to lead. It merely proves that he has passed a certain examination. A few officers (and the possession of a certificate gives them the right to assume the airs of an imperial officer, and to enforce the customs and discipline of an imperial army in what is practically a republican militia; but we are not troubled with them long; they soon resign.

The point I wish to make, however, is, how does C. F. C. propose to fill the vacancies for officers? There isn't a battalion that I know of with its full complement of officers. Surely an uncertificated officer is better than nothing at all. As I know him, instead of being a jay in peacock feathers, etc., he is usually a popular man, and always to be depend