

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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### MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 14, of 2nd August 1889.

## Topics of the Week.

Elsewhere in this issue we print the feeling lines apropos of the battle of Lundy's Lane, read by Miss Hutt, of Stamford, at the celebration of the seventy-fourth anniversary, in Toronto on the 25th July. The young lady was warmly applauded by the company assembled, numbering about 2,000 people, and Sir Adolphe Caron accepted a copy of the lines, which were printed on a very pretty golden leaf inscribed "with the compliments of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society."

Speaking at a banquet held in camp toward the close of the Wimbledon meeting, Major Hinman, of the Massachusetts team, suggested a reduction in the size of the bull's-eye at the ranges where ties were most frequent, and also expressed a hope that, if the visit of the American team did no other good, it would at least be of service to the English Volunteers in inducing the authorities to place a more useful sight upon their rifles. As an inspector of rifle practice in the United States, and speaking from experience extending over a considerable number of years, he had no hesitation in asserting that the sights of the Martini-Henry rifle might be very greatly improved without in the least degree impairing the serviceable character of the weapon.

We commend to the consideration of the executive of the Dominion Rifle Association the letter in our correspondence columns on the subject of the proposal to enforce the rule forbidding tampering with Snider rifle sights. The object the executive have in view is a good one, being the prevention of abuses such as their attention has of late been drawn to, cases being cited where both fore and back sights have been mutilated beyond reasonable bounds. With our correspondent, we fancy the executive will have considerable difficulty in framing any rules upon the subject, which will be at once satisfactory to the competitor, enabling him to do the best work with the government weapon, and to the association in guarding against possible abuse. The great mass of the competitors would loyally assist in this endeavour, but would fervently protest against any rule forbidding their altering the sights to a reasonable degree so as to be better able to cope against the wind, that greatest enemy to precise shooting with the Snider.

In another place in this issue there will be noticed a communication from Messrs. Fontaine Besson & Co., the noted band instrument makers, putting themselves right before the public with respect to the awards received at the Melbourne International Exhibition. In this connection the MILITIA GAZETTE desires to call the special attention of

its readers to the advertisement of that firm, appearing regularly in our columns, and to bespeak for them the liberal patronage which the proved high quality of their instruments deserves. We are glad to know that they have already a large connection in Canada. One of the latest orders entrusted to them is an extensive one from the Eighth Royal Rifles, of Quebec, Messrs. Besson's business connection with whom dates as far back as 1879.

## The Wimbledon Meeting.

Throughout the country the daily press is doing our Canadian riflemen at Wimbledon this year the justice to call public attention to their very creditable achievements there, not only as individuals, in which capacity they were singularly successful, but by the eight chosen to represent the Dominion in the Kolapore cup contest. "It is gratifying to learn," says the *St. John Sun* in this connection, "that our eight won the match on their own merits, pitted as they were against a team in every way worthy of the British riflemen. It may be of interest to state that the captain of the English Kolapore team, names on the first day of the Wimbledon matches twenty men from the riflemen there assembled from whom he must eventually select the British eight. It seems to be the practice to divide the honours of the team equally between the English and Scotch, giving four places to each, and these four are usually those who have scored well in the great international trophy match between the four kingdoms, par excellence the team match of the year. It is always shot on the second Monday of the Wimbledon meeting, that is, two days before the Kolapore. So this year the British team was made up of four Scotch and four English. Of the English contingent Perry, Bates and Wattleworth are among the best shots at Wimbledon. Not only have they frequently shot against Scotland and in the Kolapore, but they also were members of the British teams in the military matches between the United States and Great Britain in 1882 and 1883. Ingram and Grier of the Scotch quartette are also men of great celebrity, both at Wimbledon and north of the Tweed. These men were placed on the Kolapore team this year not only because of their past record. They had all sustained their reputation in the preceding matches and had scored high in the international trophy match. We have therefore the utmost reason to be proud of the work done by the Canadian eight. The cups again come to Canada (for the fifth time in nineteen years) despite the efforts of as good men as ever shot for the mother country. It cannot be thought that the victory was the result of any concessions or any indifference on the part of the mother country team. Of the successful eight, Armstrong, Ogg and Mitchell, especially, are riflemen of the best repute. They have high Dominion records. Ogg's repeated successes certainly entitle him to the topmost position among Canadians at Wimbledon."

While these two marksmen are being thus lauded in *St. John N. B.*, the following letter comes from an enthusiastic admirer in Toronto:

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Having just received the *Times* of 10th July, I have only now seen the details of the shooting for the Queen's prize. Perhaps some will think it over officious, but I cannot help writ