

The Rifle.

The Ottawa Rifle Club held their eighth weekly spoon competition on Saturday last, using Snider rifles at Queen's ranges. The spoon winners were: 1st class, J. H. Ellis, 91, and Capt. H. H. Gray, 86; 2nd class, D. R. Brown, 85; 3rd class, W. Lambkin, 74. The club offer an extra spoon for a "possible" score at any range. In the two years since this offer was made the spoon has only twice been earned, the second occasion being on Saturday, when Mr. Ellis made seven bulls eyes at 500 yards; he secured two spoons, therefore, being first in the general competition as shown above.

At the weekly competition of the Guards Association at the Rideau range last Saturday, Snider rifles, 200, 500 and 600 yards, Capt. Gray won in the first class with 86 points, and Corp. Brown in the second with 85.

The first provincial association programme for the 1890 prize meeting came to hand this week. It is that of Nova Scotia. The programme is much the same as that of last year, which divided up the prizes in a very interesting and useful manner. There are, however, two very attractive new features. For the encouragement of young shots an "Affiliated Match" is introduced. This, in which there is \$100 offered in twenty-four prizes, consists of seven shots at 400 yards. It is restricted to militiamen who have never won a prize at a meeting of the association, and each regiment paying \$10 is allowed to enter fifteen representatives, with the right to shoot in all the matches. The other new feature is the Laurie Military Match, for the Laurie Bugle and \$75, to be awarded in six prizes to the sections of five n.c.o. or men making the highest score in twenty rounds skirmishing between 450 and 200 yards. The matches open on Tuesday, 12th August.

The prize list of the Dominion Rifle Association shows few changes compared with last year, but the net result is an addition of about \$85 to the money offered, the amount being \$7,392, in addition to which there are the many valuable badges, medals and trophies. The number of prizes in the Nursery match, in which the competition has been further restricted, has been reduced from 77, amounting to \$380, to 67 amounting to \$350. In the Manufacturers' match there will be 74 prizes and \$545, in place of 82 prizes and \$585. In the Minister of Militia match there will be 8 in place of 6 team prizes, the individual prizes remaining at 62, and the money for both combined being \$642 in place of \$618. The Snider aggregate becomes much more important, with 47 prizes and \$250 in place of 27 prizes amounting to \$150. The Revolver list is also increased, being now 17 prizes and \$80 against 11 prizes and \$50 last year. The matches will be held at the usual time, commencing on Monday, 1st September.

Regimental and Other News.

Capt. Sheppard having resigned, the command of No. 2 Company, 95th Battalion, has been handed over to Lieut. R. C. Brown.

The Duke of Connaught has signified his intention to present a set of colours to be competed for annually by the Cadet corps of Montreal, and to be awarded on each occasion to the best drilled company.

James Page, the oldest survivor of Nelson, died at Dunbar, Dundas County, Ont., on the 10th May, at the extraordinary age of one hundred and twenty-three years. So writes a correspondent of the *Morrisburgh Courier*, giving facts in support of his statements. He had for many years been supported by the township council, who paid for his maintenance by a friendly family. He was with Nelson in all his great naval engagements. About twenty-five years ago application was made to the British Government for a pension for the old man, but his discharge papers had been burned and the pension could not be secured.

Toronto.

In the last issue of the *MILITIA GAZETTE* a brief paragraph stated the result of a rifle match between the Bachelors and Benedicts of the Queen's Own Sergeants' Mess. Thinking that further details of the match might be of some interest, I have ventured to write this letter, and I hope your regular correspondent will not take offence at me for thus entering upon his preserves. Since the inception of the Military Rifle League all matters relative to shooting are heard with eagerness by all aspirants to honours on Bisley Common, and I trust a description of the manner in which the Sergeants' Mess try to encourage shooting will not be amiss.

It seems that last spring one of the "young bloods" of the Mess, contending that the supernumary rank, at least, ought to be well versed in all matters pertaining to shooting, suggested that in order to promote interest during the coming season matches among members of the Mess should be arranged which could not but fail to excite the interest of all the regiment. Accordingly negotiations were entered into between the Benedicts and Bachelors for a match to be fired at the Garrison Common ranges, and the losing side to provide a supper for the Mess. After

a postponement on account of wet weather, it was finally decided that the match should come off Saturday, 7th inst., and filled with the burning desire of wiping the Benedicts out of existence (metaphorically speaking), the Bachelors sallied up, armed to the teeth. After the firing was over, they sallied back again, but without any open display of intention, as the Benedicts had risen in their might, and with cool and dauntless mien piled on the overwhelmed Bachelors the heavy majority of 41 points, not half so easily relished as the prospects the poor Bachelors thought looked so inviting that many intended going in training for the epicurean feast it should be their fortune to share at the expense of the Benedicts.

Lieut. J. Knifton acted as range officer, discharging the onerous duties to the satisfaction of all. The following table shows the scores made (200, 400 and 500 yards, 5 shots, Snider):—

MARRIED.		BACHELORS.	
Sergt. McNeill	60	Staff-Sergt. Harp	57
" Medland	60	Col.-Sergt. Crooks	54
Staff-Sergt. Ashall	58	Sergt. N. B. Sanson	53
" Donnelly	57	Staff-Sergt. Walker	49
Sergt. Gorrie	54	Sergt. Fuller	48
" Duncan	53	Col.-Sergt. McMaster	47
Col.-Sergt. Cooper	52	Sergt. Bailey	47
" Ritchie	46	" Woods	46
Staff-Sergt. Williams	42	" Vicars	45
Sergt. Austin	42	Staff-Sergt. Swift	43
" Thorn	41	Sergt. Argles	39
" Moggridge	34	Sergt.-Maj. McKell	38
" Creighton	29	Sergt. Berthon	30
" Wright	24	Col.-Sergt. Kennedy	15
Total	652	Total	611

Upon the conclusion of the match adjournment was made to the Mess rooms, and here the defeat was further rubbed in by the appearance of a tombstone bearing the following inscription: "Erected in memory of the 'Bachelors,' slaughtered to a man June 7th, 1890, after a gallant resistance to a superior force. Their end was peace. Let them R.I.P. LANGTON."

Rumour is very busy about the secretary of the Bachelors, and some critics are mean enough to ascribe his absence from the match to a presentiment of a defeat which he did not want to share. The return match takes place on the 28th, when, I hear, the Bachelors, not being content with simply reversing things, have almost completed arrangements to drive in state from the range to the Mess, headed by the two bands of the regiment.

Some of the shootists are wondering if one of the Bachelors only obtained one-quarter of the "growler" as well as one-quarter of the score of the Benedict with whom he was fraternizing all afternoon?

I will give full particulars of the return match as soon as the event comes off.

"LOCK-PLATE."

Instructions for Field Artillery Practice.

[Royal Artillery Regimental Orders.—Continued from page 162.]

18. Elementary Practice should be throughout in the hands of the Officer Commanding the Battery, but the details should be submitted to the Camp Commandant or Commanding Officer for approval

Its objects are:—

1. To teach and practice fire discipline.
2. To teach observation of fire,* and enable the Commanding Officer to practically select his best observer.
3. To teach ranging by trial shots and adjustment of fuze, using both ordinary and telescopic sights, direct and indirect methods of laying.
4. To practice supply of ammunition as laid down in chap. iv, section 9, and chap. v, section 4, Field Artillery Drill, Vol. II.
5. To teach ranging on a moving target. One day at least should be devoted to this, the battery, before firing shell, being drilled at it with blank ammunition.
6. The Officers of the battery should be tested in the conduct of fire, so that they may, if necessary, be capable of replacing the Commanding Officer.

19. No opportunity should be neglected of pointing out, especially to Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, any faults that may occur in the course of practice, e.g.,—

- (a). When firing trial shots, creeping up to or back to the target by small alterations of elevation.
- (b). Commencing Shrapnel fire with time fuzes, before the elevation is satisfactorily determined by trial shots.
- (c). Alterations of elevation or of fuze, after they have been fairly

* This can also be done at drill. The best observers would then be known just as the best layers.