

happened to be on the range at the time, beat both the other teams with a score of 824 points. GRAVELCRUSHER.

ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION MATCHES.

BY LONG ODDS THE BEST YET.

TORONTO, July 14.—From the advance copy of the programme of the Ontario Rifle Association's matches, a synopsis of which appears elsewhere in this issue, the conclusion must be drawn that, to the average rifle shot, the list of prizes hung up for competition is very tempting, and the Executive may well be sanguine of the biggest and best meeting ever held under the auspices of any provincial association.

A great many of the officers belonging to the warships now at Montreal and Quebec have been in the city within the past few days, almost all journeying to Niagara Falls before returning to their ships.

Considerable bad feeling is being generated among some of the members of the regimental bands of the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers over the engagements at Hanlan's Point. When contracts were made with the Toronto Ferry Association, the association insisted on each band engaging so many professional musicians to appear and play with each band. By complying with this regulation some members of both bands had to relinquish all hope of the extra money they had been receiving for some few seasons past, and naturally feel incensed to think that, despite regular attendance on regimental parade for a number of years, length of service does not count in the contract with the association.

It is questionable whether or no the average audience in the city could tell if professionals were present or not at these band concerts, and if the regimental authorities, after going to the expense of salary to the bandmaster, music, instruments, and uniforms, etc., are satisfied with the bands as they parade, in justice to the men who do and have paraded, and stuck loyally to their regiment; they should say to any corporation that they must contract with the regimental band as it appears on parade or not at all. Had there been less jealousy between these two bands themselves and less desire to knife one another, a joint stand would have been effective in bringing the Ferry Association to see that either the Q.O.R. or Grenadiers band, without the extra professionals, was quite good enough for the ordinary citizen.

Possibly the Orange demonstration had something to do with the very small attendance at the ranges on the 11th July. It seemed to be quite the smallest of the season, and the action of the Grand Trunk, in cutting off the early train to the city,

gave all present ample time to get all the shooting desired.

The action of the railway will not be allowed to pass without protest, but little is expected this year, and many are living in hopes that next year will see the Lake Shore R.R. extended to the ranges.

The committee of the "'85 Volunteer Monument" are being put in for a little criticism for omitting the name of Pte. I. Hughes, of the Grenadiers, from amongst those appearing on the honor list, the committee having decided that as he did not die in action or at the front, although death resulted from a wound received at the front, the claim for recognition, the same as those killed in action, could not be entertained. Some of the members of the York Simcoe battalion are also inquiring as to why they were not tabulated with the other corps who took part in the campaign.

The nearness of the Military Institute to the Armory will be a great convenience to at least the officers' messes of the Q.O.R. and Grenadiers. I understand that, unless on special occasions, they have come to the conclusion that for all wants of the inner man the 'Stute is sufficiently near to make the carrying of a supply of the munition of war unnecessary. 'Twill prove another argument in favor of the Transportation Committee of the Institute.

A rather novel and yet a pretty incident was witnessed by the writer a few nights ago: Opposite Hanlan's Point and at the extreme northern end of Blockhouse Bay, is a neat little shack, which for want of a better name is called "Mugg's Landing." It is tenanted by a very jovial crowd, every one of whom is or has been connected with the force. Each day, with military precision, the sunrise and sunset gun is fired and the ensign raised and lowered. Their example has been followed by quite a few, and the scene one can witness, should you take up a position near the lighthouse, looking cityward, at the hour for the sunset gun, is quite a treat. Immediately the gun is fired from "Muggs'" the flag comes down on the run and the notes of "Retreat" are heard coming over the waters. The notes have not had time to die away before a gun is fired from the opposite side of Blockhouse Bay and "Retreat" sounded by two or three buglers who are encamped there. The flags from this camp and for quite a distance around, including the Canoe Club Camp, at the head of the Bay, all follow one after another, and the ceremony, which in some cases is a reminder of jolly days in camp with jovial comrades, is brought to an end.

The latest despatches at hand at time of writing give the information that the new Minister of Militia returns to Ottawa by the end of the month and will immediately take up the

Queen's Own case. In that case by the time the next issue of this paper is due it should be known whether the report and the recommendation of the Major-General to the old Government will be carried into effect by the new administration.

They are in a capital position should they decide to act upon the recommendation made by the officer commanding, because, if Col. Hamilton is placed on the retired list the transfer cannot be criticised by the Opposition, after the share they had in the transaction, whereas, on the other hand, if the Government reinstates him, and the despatches say strong pressure is being brought to bear with such an end in view, it will, as any well-informed person in this city could inform them, lead to the dismemberment of the Queen's Own, and thus give the Opposition a chance to prove a strong case against the Government for being the means of causing such a historic and gallant corps' downfall.

The ignorance of how the Major-General would regard such an answer to his recommendation, will also prove a factor in the case with those in power, who have now a chance to show that for the future politics must be kept out of the force.

Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison is taking a well-earned rest in the country.

VOLUNTEER DECORATION.

EDITOR MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—I note in a recent issue that you speak in a somewhat eulogistic manner of the "V.D." (Volunteer Decoration). Those who know the conditions under which it was granted do not hold it in very high esteem, because the granting of it does not depend on service, but upon the caprice of commanding officers who recommend candidates for it. It is known colloquially in England as "very drunk" or "very disorderly." I have heard officers say that they would not wear it if it was granted them. The volunteer long-service medal is, however, held in high esteem, and represents long service and personal sacrifices on the part of the wearer.

Yours, etc., SCRUTATOR.

London, Eng., July 2, 1896.

R. M. C. ENTRANCE.

A. C. Macdonnell, Ontario; A. L. Binyay, Quebec; Robt. B. Viets, Nova Scotia; Julian Y. R. Ridout, Quebec; E. G. Poole, Nova Scotia; C. P. Holden, Quebec; H. M. Daly, Quebec; W. T. Cameron, Quebec; A. D. Strathy, Ontario; R. D. Harvie, Ontario; W. A. Baldwin, Ontario; John R. Jago, Nova Scotia; Jas. B. Uniacke, Nova Scotia.

The above thirteen young gentlemen have passed the examination for admission as cadets to the R.M.C., Kingston.