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OUR Toronto correspondent who this week questions the wisdom of making non-combatant officers eligible for court-martial duties, will no doubt be pleased to see, by the annual report of the Militia Department, that his views on the matter are those expressed by the officer commanding.

HERE is a pointer for the Canadian Militia authorities—it is an extract from the *U. S. Army and Navy Journal*: "To save civilian applicants for commissions in the regular army from further trouble, we can state with authority that the President has drawn the line at non-commissioned officers, declaring positively that vacancies from this time on will be reserved for the class to graduate from the Military Academy in June next."

FINANCIALLY, the Dominion Rifle Association is in a very creditable position, as shown by the statement of the treasurer, Lt.-Col. John Macpherson, in the annual report just published. The receipts from all sources in 1887 were \$17,448, the expenditure was \$17,133, and the surplus now on hand is \$2,440. The prize list for the year was the best yet offered, amounting to \$6,693. Towards this the competitors contributed upwards of four thousand dollars in the shape of entry and membership fees. The expenses of the Wimbledon team were \$5,811, a slight reduction from the account for 1886.

LIEUT.-COL. OUMET, who commanded the Wimbledon team, in his report to the President of the D. R. A. alludes with pride to the fact that three Canadians won their way into the hundred competitors who shoot in the final stage for the Queen's prize. "This fine result," he says, "was an agreeable surprise to our warmest friends, and leads to the hope that in the near future, with anything like good luck, the 'blue ribbon' may be carried off by a Canadian. 'Tis will not appear to you a useless boast, when I mention that after the two first rounds at the last—that is the 900 yards—range in the last stage, a Canadian (Sergt. Ogg) was leading."

THE Commandant is enthusiastic in his narration of the kind treatment accorded the team in England. He says: "I have seen with great pleasure and pride that of the four thousand competitors who meet every year at Wimbledon, from all parts of the United Empire, none receive a more hearty welcome than the Canadians. The Association seems to have been particularly well represented in past years by officers

and men who have made the name of Canada most popular on Wimbledon common amongst the British aristocracy and yeomanry. * * * Many other successful efforts have been and are yet made to make Canada known in the United Kingdom; but nothing, it seems to me, can do more to popularize Canada amongst the best of every class of our fellow subjects in the mother country, than our sending to Wimbledon every year a Canadian representative team of our best riflemen." In conclusion Col. Ouimet pays a tribute, we are sure deserved, to Capt. J. T. Hartt, adjutant of the team, for his careful and judicious management.

THE annual report of the Department of Militia and Defence has made its appearance, and an extended synopsis of a portion of its contents will be found in this issue. As the report, exclusive of the Militia List which accompanies it, occupies close on three hundred pages of the blue book, it is no small task to master its contents and their significance. However, we have extracted for publication this week the points of most general and immediate interest; in subsequent issues the substance of other portions of the report will be published. There is a vast amount of valuable information to be gleaned from the volume. The recommendations and suggestions contained in the annual reports have very often in the past been completely ignored; why, it would be hard to say, unless it is that no one has made it his business to press for their adoption or at least earnest consideration. The greater part of the recommendations contained in the volume just out have been made on former occasions, but no action has been taken with respect to them.

A PERUSAL of our synopsis of Lieut.-Gen. Middleton's report will well repay the time spent. He makes practical suggestions for improvement in many directions. The permanent force will, we are sure, particularly appreciate the solicitude he has shown for their welfare. For the present establishment he bespeaks more pay, equipment of the latest pattern; Martini-Henry rifles, and ammunition sufficient to enable the men to become proficient in the use of them; hospital clothing for the invalided, and several other things which an appreciative country might reasonably be expected to provide; and an increase in the number of officers is asked for.

ENEMIES of the old Snider will feel that they have met with a reverse when they read the General's endorsement of that weapon. It would, as he says, be too expensive to arm the force with Martinis, in view of the fact that that arm is now about to be superseded, but we would like to have seen a recommendation that the large number now in Canada's possession should be issued to certain corps likely to make good use of them. The importance of greater attention being paid to rifle shooting is again emphasized, and the special praise given to one D. A. G. who made it a prominent feature of his brigade camp instruction we hope will stimulate others to follow his example. It will be noticed that the General is not backward in assigning to the rifle associations the credit for what proficiency has been attained in shooting by the force of this country.