

The Canadian Militia Gazette

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Artillerymen appear to be agreed that a Canadian team should be sent to Shoeburyness this year, and it is to be hoped that the lateness of the Session of Parliament will not have the effect of putting a financial obstacle in the way. The prospect of participation in such a trip is a strong incentive to the artilleryman to acquire a high degree of proficiency in his duties, and to be well trained in this branch requires such a generous sacrifice of time that no opportunity should be lost of offering noteworthy reward to the volunteers who make it.

General Herbert has interested himself in securing from the Committee of the Royal Military Tournament, of which the Duke of Cambridge is president, twelve bronze medals for competition amongst the members of the Canadian permanent corps. The medals are awarded for military exercises such as displayed at the tournaments annually held at Islington, and in making the gift the committee express the hope that Canada may ere long be represented by a team. It is reported that General Herbert hopes also to obtain medals for competition amongst other than the permanent corps, and in this we trust he will be successful, as to interest the militia in such contests will hasten the inauguration of the Canadian military tournaments which time and again we have advocated as a distinguishing feature of the celebration of our national birthday.

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson was this week again elected to represent his old constituency, Hamilton, in the Ontario Legislature. At the general election last summer he was in a minority, but his opponent being unseated for irregularities in the contest another election was held with the above result. Col. Gibson is Provincial Secretary, and one of Premier Mowat's ablest colleagues. He appears to be as popular with his fellow-citizens generally as with the gallant 13th, and on the Dominion rifle ranges, where he is one of the most familiar figures. At a bye-election a candidate's personal merits are more considered than in a general contest where party supremacy in the Province or Dominion is the stake, and the handsome majority just received is a marked tribute to Col. Gibson's personal worth.

A new House of Commons will have been chosen by the time the next issue of this paper appears. The military members are for the most part to the fore again, though there are two notable retirements, those of Lieut.-General Laurie, who has gone to reside in England, and Major H. A. Ward, who was not on this occasion the choice of his party in East Darham. Prominent amongst the military ex-members again in the field, are Lieut.-Cols. Onimet, Kirkpatrick, O'Brien, Denison, Prior, Amyot and Tisdale; and Majors Carpenter, Sutherland and Marshall, all able men with bright prospects for re-election; and Major Sam Hughes of the 45th Battalion is a new aspirant for Parliamentary honours, having taken the field on the Ministerial side in North Victoria, against the former member, Mr. Barron. The Minister of Militia, Sir Adolphe Caron, has abandoned his old constituency, Quebec County, and accepted nomination in Chicoutimi. The Speakership has for the last two parliaments being held by military men, but this "command" will probably now fall into civilian hands.

Secretary Pringle's letter in this issue foreshadows an important new departure on the part of the Military Rifle League, this being the admission of other than exclusively military teams to participation in the competitions. He gives sound reasons in support of the idea, which we hope will prevail with the council. The greater the number of persons interested in rifle shooting the better, and so long as the civilians or Retired List officers are not to be made beneficiaries out of the funds set apart for the active militia, by all means encourage their friendly competition.

"Buckshot's" letter on the subject of a Northwest Rifle League indicates seemingly an extension of the plan of "simultaneous" competitions which have been quietly carried on in the Territories for a few seasons past. The great distance separating them has not prevented a warm interest in each other springing up amongst the riflemen of the prairie towns and their regularly appointed series of matches have excited much interest in the sport. This interest is bound to be increased by the formation of the proposed Northwest League, and we hope the advent at the D. R. A. meetings of a strong representative team from the Territories will be an early result.