

Special consolation prize, given by Major Pollard to those who failed to take prizes in the Consolation match, finished the shooting. Prize, silver cake basket, five shots at 200 and 500 yards. Won by Pte. William Darke, No. 5 Co., with 33 points.

Correspondence.

SHOEBURYNESS TEAM COMPOSITION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—The explanation of both Lieut.-Colonels Oswald and McDonald bears out my argument that though England has consented to allow any constitution we please in our team, we are not above taking advantage of this generosity, and this I consider, and so do others, as beneath our dignity. Col. Gray, who commanded the English team, made the following observation to an officer of the Canadian militia while in Canada: "I notice that though you send men from the regular artillery home to England you do not allow them to compete against us here, why is it?' No one could explain this; perhaps Lieut.-Col. Oswald can. His statement, "Were any change to take place in the constitution of the team, I can assure you it would be most unpopular in England, as "B" Battery men and the cadets are very popular," is silly; for pleasing, I may say winning, men can also be found outside of the permanent corps. He examples the adjutant of the rifle association with Engpermanent corps. He examples the adjutant of the rifle association with English volunteers. But this officer is at headquarters, and in brigades of a thousand men he may never see the teams that compete at Shoebury. Lieut.-Colonel Oswald knows quite well the vast difference between the duties of the adjutant of a volunteer briga le in England and that of the adjutant of our team of 20 men. He says nothing of the No. 1, the most important subject of all. The fact of picking the best men from every battery in the Dominion is the greatest advantage to us, and not a disadvantage as he wishes it to be imagined. Besides the British team that visited us was composed of men selected in a similar manner, except that they did not arrange things for America, and include an officer, n.c.o. and men from the regular forces that are debarred from competing under ordinary circumstances at the Shoebury meeting. Let us ask them to do this next time; it would settle the whole difficulty and prove that to win was not our only idea in Canada. Also let me suggest that when we again visit Great Britain a team with a mixture of regulars be selected to oppose us in the contests. This is quite feasible on the principle that is now in vogue at Shoebury of chosing a single British team as our antagonists. This will put us on a fair footing at once. Those who question the composition of the Shoebury squad are not grumblers, but thoroughbred Canadians and lovers of a country that they would see enter the ring on the "go as you please" idea only when the English volunteers consent to do the same.

SIX-BY-NINE.

VIOLATION OF RULES AT THE D. R. A. MEETING.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,-I have just returned home from our Canadian Wimbledon and wish to make a few remarks on the meeting. In the first place from the very start there was evidently a marked ignorance of the duties and of the rules of the association on the part of the great majority of the register keepers, markers and also, I am sorry to say, some of the range officers. I am going through the rules and will point out to you some of the blunders and breaking of rules that came under my own notice and that of some others of our men on whose story I could rely. Under the head of General Regulations, we find, section III, sub-section d (dress). This rule was repeatedly broken through. Sect. V (inspection of rifles) of the same regulation was never once to my knowledge, or that of any one else, enforced at all. Now I myself knew of several rifles which would not stand the test of pull. Sect. XIII of the same was a dead letter as talking and coaching were continually indulged in. Sect. XIV (coaching) was a dead letter, as was also Sect. XVI (panelties). Under the best VIV (panelties). Under the head of Disallowance of scores, sect. d was often broken through. Under the head of Signalling, sect. f was simply a dead letter, as no black disc was used at all. Misses were signa'led with the ricochet bar which entirely misled many competitors, causing them to elevate their sights under the impression that the shot had gone low, whereas it may have gone high or on either side. Sect. 5. In a vast number of cases the signal disc was turned the wrong side out, and I know myself of two parties getting in one case seven more points and in the other four more points than they were entitled to. I stopped the register keepers several times from putting down the score signalled until the spotting disc came up showing the shot a different value from the signal disc. In all cases register keepers should delay marking the value of the shot signalled until the target comes up, but these men did not know any better, and one of them argued with me that he should put the value down as the signal disc showed it, no matter where the spotting disc appeared, until I got the range officer to convince him of his error. You may imagine how many mistakes there must have been made in this way. Under the head

of Military breechloaders, I would call your attention again to the minimum pull of trigger.

Ammunition.—Sect. a.—Many of the competitors, and some of the most successful ones, used cartridges filled by themselves. If the ammunition was alike that would not matter, but Capt. Perley told me he had opened a large number and found the charge vary two to five grains in weight. One grain in his opinion being quite sufficient to give a man a very different shot, what a terrible difference four or five would make. I can put down at least twelve of my shots to the ammunition without any doubt, and at Sussex this year our shooting was simply abominable on that account. Now if we all had been notified of the fact that the cartridges were unevenly filled we could all have emptied and filled enough to put us through the shooting, in a short time, and I think that the results would have been very different in many cases.

Order of shooting.—This rule was not enforced at all as it ought to have been, and I would like to draw your attention to the squadding. We are supposed to do our shooting in pairs, each pair taking fifteen minutes. Many pairs, however, take a much larger time; others, again, are not on time, and consequently the shooting is delayed, and many competitors who are last on the list have to shoot, perhaps, twenty minutes or half an hour after their proper time, thus making it much harder for them.

Sect. 7.—This rule was broken through and I consider it a very important one. Sect. 9.—Applies to my previous remarks on the length of time taken by some of their men.

Now I am not making these remarks in a haggling spirit, or because I was particularly injured by the breaking of them in any way. I feel, however, that among a large number the impression was very strong that the whole meeting was conducted in a very loose way, and when we attend those matches, and some of us go a long way to do it, a strict enforcement of all the rules would meet with general satisfaction. We have the same rules here and they are strictly carried out, and also at Bedford. I am confident that any person inclined to roguery could have indulged in plenty of it at Ottawa without much fear of detection. Wishing your paper success, I remain very truly yours.

Sussex, N. B., Sept. 4.

J. M. KINNEAR. Capt. and Adjt. 74th Batt.

The Target.

British Columbia.—At the 13th annual prize meeting of the British Columbia rifle association, the prize lists of which were published last week, the presence of a detachment of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines under the charge of Mr. Fisher, gunnery lieutenant, added much to the *eclat* of the meeting. The naval visitors proved themselves good shots in the use of a weapon to which they are not accustomed, they being armed with the Martini-Henry, and shooting in the above matches with the short Snider-Enfield, the arm with which the militia of the British Columbia district are supplied. In No. 8 match, shot with the Martini, the navy swept all before them. A full and interesting report of the matches reached us unexpectedly last week, but unfortunately too late for substitution for the prize lists, which had already been put in type from the British Columbia papers.

Brantford, Ont.—A rifle association has been organized in this township with the following officers: Patrons—Judge Scott, Jas. Fleming, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt and Mayor Milner. President, Lieut. A. G. Murray. Secretary W. O. Mc. Clure. Committee—Messrs. J. C. More, Al. Chisholm, J. P. Allan, James Anderson, F. B. Holtby, Corpl. Gorry, Pte. Brown. Honorary Members—Messrs. Arch. McLellan and Robt. Craig. The range is situate on the farm of Mr. Arch. McLellan and on part of the land south of it owned by Mr. Robert Craig, both gentlemen having very generously granted to No. 1 company, 36th Batt., the use of the lands for that purpose. The association numbers now over thirty members, and indications point to a large increase. There have already been several practices and good results.

Ottawa.—On Monday last the Dominion Pol'ce held their annual rifle matches at the Rideau range. Superintendent Sherwood has aroused a good deal of enthusiasm in the men of his little force, and they went into the competition very heartily. There were five matches, at ranges up to 500 yards, as well as a revolver match at 25 and 40 yards. Some pretty high scoring was made. P. C. Morrison topped the aggregate. That no time might be lost at midday lunch was provided by Superintendent Sherwood, and served in a large marquee erected on the range.

Regimental Notes.

(We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested particularly at a distance, as six us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

Winnipeg.—The weekly battalion dill of the 90th is to be discontinued for the present. It is understood there will be a monthly march out of the battalion, headed by its band. This will tend to keep the battalion together during the winter months. Lieut.-Col. Mackeand has ordered from England several Morris tubes, so that target practice can be carried on in the drill shed after the ranges are closed for the season.

The new training to which the men of the Mounted Infantry School are being introduced will no doubt be productive of good results, and with the increased number of horses that will be added as soon as stables are provided there will be first-class facilities for instruction in mounted infantry drill. The sham fights between the mounted and foot men are intended to give the men some idea of what they may have to do in actual coupled. They will be continued regularly. Monitology

actual combat. They will be continued regularly.—Manitoban.

The Winnipeg field battery went camp on Tuesday near the Assiniboine bridge, in Fort Rouge, under command of Captain Coutlee. There are several changes being made in the personne! of the officers.

Calgary.—The Manitoban says a strong movement is on foot in Calgary to secure an independent company of infantry for that rising town. Lieutenant Mortimer, of the Calgary home guard, who successfully shot at the M. R. A. matches, and Lieutenant Rogers, late of the 90th, are spoken of in connection with the commissions in the company.

27th Batt.—The members of the 27th Batt. band, Sarnia, arranged for a concert for last Friday evening the proceeds to go to the benefit of the family of the late bandsman W. F. Peacock. The late Mr. Peacock was a valued number of the band, and his widow and fatherless family have urgent need of assistance, under the distressing circumstances of their bereavement.

Ottawa.—The field battery are about to commence practice for the competition for the prizes offered by the Dominion artillery association, in which a detachment f om the battery will take part.