

## The Rifle.

### D COMPANY VS C BATTERY.

On Saturday the 7th inst, a telegraphic match was fired between "C" Battery, R.C.A. at Victoria B.C., and "D" Company, I.S.C. at London Ont., with ten men on each side, ranges 200, 300 and 400 yards, 5 rounds at each range, any position. The scores were, "D" Company 578, "C" Battery 504, leaving the infantry winners by 74 points.

### CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

We have been forwarded a copy of a circular printed in the interests of this proposed institution, and promulgating this list of provisional officers:

President, Lt.-Col. The Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hamilton; 1st Vice-President, Lt.-Col. Anderson, Ottawa; 2nd Vice-President, Major Delamere, Toronto.

EXECUTIVE—Ontario,—Major Mason, Hamilton; Major Perley, Ottawa; Major Sam Hughes, Lindsay; Capt. Russell, Bowmanville; Capt. W. C. Macdonald, Toronto. Quebec,—Lt.-Col. Miller, Quebec; Lt.-Col. Massey, Montreal; Capt. J. Hood, Montreal; Capt. Sims, Montreal; Lieut. Desbarats, Montreal. Prince Edward Island,—Capt. Longworth, Charlottetown; Lieut. Hooper, Charlottetown; Lieut. Weeks, Charlottetown. Nova Scotia,—Major Garrison, Halifax; Capt. Barnhill, Shubenacadie; Lieut. Dimock, Windsor. New Brunswick,—Lt.-Col. Maunsell, Fredericton; Major Hartt, St. John; Capt. Hartt, St. John. Manitoba,—Lt.-Col. Boswell, Winnipeg; Major Buchan, Winnipeg; C. N. Mitchell, Winnipeg. North-West Territories,—Capt. Wyld, Battleford; Staff-Sergt. J. C. Gordon, Prince Albert; Mr. Jowett, Regina. British Columbia, Lt.-Col. Prior, Victoria; Capt. P. Æ. Irving, Victoria; Capt. Scoullar, New Westminster.

Treasurer, Capt. J. Bruce, Court House, Toronto; Secretary, W. R. Pringle, 63 Front St. West, Toronto; Asst-Secretary, A. D. Crooks, Toronto.

It is noted that, "The first business meeting of the executive will be held at Ottawa, on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 5th, 1890; this being the day on which the annual business meeting of the D. C. R. A. is held."

The conditions, which are substantially the same as published some weeks ago, are as follows:

The object of this league is to encourage rifle practice, and to encourage the old shots to teach the young, and also to make it an object to attend practice. The teams to be limited to regimental teams. For the season of 1890 the teams to be composed of ten men each, but for the season of 1891 to be twenty men, and for 1892 twenty five to fifty men, and so on. Each regiment may enter any number of teams, and it will not be necessary to have the same men on the team each match. But when a man once fires with a team he cannot fire with any other. The entrance fee will be \$10.00 per team, or when a regiment enters more than one team, \$10.00 for the first team and \$5.00 for each additional team entered, the said fees to be devoted to the purchase of a trophy and other prizes and to defray incidental expenses. Entrance fees must be forwarded to the Treasurer on or before the 1st April (who will acknowledge the receipt of same) in order to leave plenty of time to make the final arrangements.

The ranges and position will be 200 yards (standing or kneeling), and 500 and 600 yards (any position with head to target) seven shots at each. No pool target or sighting shots allowed. The matches to be fired on Saturday afternoons throughout the season, the dates of which will be fixed by the executive council, and the results to be exchanged by telegraph, and the team having the highest aggregate score to be winners of the trophy, and the other prizes to go to the next highest teams. It is probable there will be two matches in May, two in June, two in July and one in August. Rifle, the Snider. The telegraph charges will be reduced to a minimum, and it is estimated that the rate will not be more than 50 cents per team per match.

Range officers will be appointed by each team, whose duty it will be to watch the scoring and marking, and to be able to vouch for everything being correct. The range officer must not belong to the corps for which he is acting. The names of range officers to be submitted to the executive for approval. The team's total and weather detail to be telegraphed and the fuller details such as the individual scores, shot for shot, etc., to be forwarded by mail on score sheets which will be provided.

Retired officers will fire with the regiment from which they retired, or, if living in another locality, they may fire with the regiment of the place in which they reside, but whatever regiment they start with they must stick to. In the event of a regiment being in camp on any league match day, its team or teams may fire there, on condition that they notify the Secretary a week previous.

The foregoing conditions are not to be considered as final, and may be altered by the executive.

### RIFLE PRACTICE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Col. Horace T. Rockwell, inspector-general of rifle practice for Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, in his annual report says:

"In respect to our present system of rifle practice, I stated in my report of last year that the work done and the results accomplished indicated progress, and the system was working satisfactorily 'for the time being.' I added, however, some suggestions with reference to possible change and improvement, which have only been acted upon in a very limited way, but which are still pertinent. I have long recognized the difficulties attending an attempt to make rifle practice equally obligatory with other duty, but I believe the time has come when the State should require the duty, and that if in enforcing the requirement it becomes necessary to slightly increase expenditures, the outlay will be more than repaid. The *esprit de corps* which has induced some of our organizations to voluntarily make considerable outlays beyond the allowances of the State cannot be relied on throughout the force; nor can it be expected that those who have heretofore done so will still continuously maintain their high standard at a large pecuniary cost to themselves. I recommend:

1. That all organizations equipped with small arms be required to parade by companies (or battalions, when practicable) on two days in each year, for rifle practice, and be allowed compensation at the rate of \$1 per man for each day's duty; also that each organization be permitted two other days for voluntary practice (and qualification), with allowance for actual transportation.

2. That on all assigned dates inspectors, or other officers detailed, be present to supervise and verify the work, pay and transportation to be allowed.

3. The above allowances to supersede any issues of, or allowance for, ammunition.

4. That armoury practice with ball cartridge be discontinued as a requirement.

5. That, with a view to facilitate as to convenience of ranges, and to simplify with respect to badges, our present requirements for qualification be revised.

### In the Mother Country.

In an address Lord Harris recently delivered at the thirtieth anniversary of the formation of the 1st V. B. Sussex Regiment, he said it was not only a pleasure to have an opportunity of attending at an interesting occasion such as the present, but he conceived that it was also a duty. It was more than one of those slight acts of courtesy to be present at an occasion of that kind, for it was the duty of anyone in a public position, and who by race and natural preferences took an interest in the military profession, so far as he could by his presence on such occasions to show that he was desirous of encouraging the Volunteer Army. He thought there were two or three very obvious reasons why the whole country should do its best to encourage the Volunteer Army. In the first place it appealed to their pockets, for if it were not for the Volunteer service and the comparatively slight cost they put the country to, they should have to have a large army and more expensive line and militia forces. It was a great advantage to commerce, for it saved them from conscription, and enabled men to utilize a few of their leisure hours in military drills, while they could give the bulk of their time to commercial purposes, and because it interested the young men of their great towns, where there was far too little opportunity for physical exercises, and gave them the opportunity, and afforded them the encouragement of bracing their limbs and hardening their muscles. On all these grounds it appeared to him that far beyond the military advantages of a volunteer army, the volunteer service was doing a great deal of good to the country.

The remarkable growth of the Volunteer Engineer movement in Cheltenham, under Colonel Rogers' popular direction, has made it a necessity to provide a drill hall for the use of the Battalion. It is interesting to note that the Cheltenham Engineers had their commencement in 1874, when a company was formed and attached to headquarters at Gloucester, where two companies were stationed. In the first year of the history of the corps 74 men were returned as efficient. In 1877 a second company was formed in Cheltenham, and the increasing strength of the force necessitated the erection of a lecture hall for engineering purposes, which was provided at a cost of £200. The corps was again increased in 1888 by a third company at Cheltenham, and in June of the present year the importance of this branch of the service being recognised by the War Office, authority was granted to form a distinct battalion in the county, with its headquarters and staff at Cheltenham.