

icy of the league was to encourage young shots. (Applause.) Difference of opinion had arisen about the use of the Snider in their matches. Many would have preferred the Martini, but his opinion was that the league matches should be shot with the rifle the force is supplied with; but he hoped before long the change would come. He was glad to see the great interest centered in the league all over the Dominion, from the Minister of Militia down. He then called upon the secretary to read his report.

Major Delamere, secretary, read the following report:

"Gentlemen,—In making my fourth annual report of the Canadian Military Rifle League, I have again to congratulate the league on its continued success. This year there were 133 teams entered, as against 132 last year; but when you take into consideration the strong feeling in favor of the Martini-Henry rifle, it shows loyal support given to the arm with which the militia force of Canada is at present armed. The league is again indebted to the Minister of Militia, not only for the handsome prize he has donated for competition, but also in issuing necessary ammunition to all teams entered in the league in 1893. The president of the league, Lieut.-Col. Hon. J. M. Gibson, has given again an exceedingly handsome and valuable trophy to be competed for by teams picked from different corps who have shot in this year's matches, and the highest aggregate of seven named men, together with the three highest men not named in the Hamilton Powder Company's, the Macdougall, the Dominion of Canada and the Minister of Militia matches of the Dominion Rifle Association to count for the prize. I have also to call the attention of the league to the evident desire of those competing to carry out the rules of the competition. There is a matter which I think deserves the attention of the commanding officers of military corps, and that is that the British Columbia brigade of garrison artillery, consisting of only four batteries, has entered and fired through the competition no less than seven teams of 10 men. This is more than any other corps in the force has done, and I cannot see why others do not take as much interest in trying to improve the shooting quality of their men. In conclusion, I wish to say that having occupied the position of secretary of the league for two years, and having given my best attention to it, I can fairly ask to be relieved from duty, and to hope that my efforts in carrying out the arrangements of the league have in a small way been of some benefit to the militia force in the way of rifle shooting."

Prize winners. Ten Men Teams—Military.

	Pts.
1—7th Batt., London	3,422
2—45th Batt., Lindsay	3,310
3—1st team 13 Batt., Hamilton	3,275
4—96th Batt., Port Arthur	3,242
5—13th Batt., (second team)	3,235
6—Halifax Garrison Artillery	3,207
7—43rd Batt., (first team), Ottawa	3,194
8—6th Fusiliers, Montreal	3,194
9—G. G. F. G., Ottawa	3,143
Next in order—12th Batt., Toronto, 3,121;	
Q. O. R., 3,114; 20th Batt., Milton, 3,107;	

Ten Men Teams—Rifle Associations.—

	Pts.
1—Guelph Rifle Association	3,289
2—Hespeler Rifle Association	3,148

3—Orillia Rifle Association - 3,064
Next in order—King's County (N. S.) R. A., 2,996; G. T. R. R. A., 2,937; Hampton, (N. B.) R. A., 2,898.

20 Men Teams—Military—3 prizes—

	Pts.
1—13th Batt.	6,510
2—43rd Batt.	6,221
3—45th Batt (Lindsay and Bowmanville)	6,162
Next in order—Q. O. R., 6,047; Halifax G. A., 5,973.	

30 Men Teams—2 prizes—

	Pts.
1—13th Batt.	9,435
2—43rd Batt.	9,080
Next in order—Q. O. R.	

40 Men Teams—1 prize—

	Pts.
13th Hamilton	12,239
Next in order—43rd Batt., 11,883.	
50 Men Teams—1 prize—	

	Pts.
13th Hamilton	14,951
Next in order—43rd Batt., 13,785.	

60 Men Teams—1 prize—

	Pts.
13th Battalion	17,214
Next in order—Q. O. R.	
70 Men Team—1 prize—	

	Pts.
B. C. G. A.	13,349

Badge winners—S. Sgt. Goodwin, 7th Batt., 364. Lt. Wm. Langstroth, Hampton, R.A., 363; S. Sgt. John Ogg, Guelph, 385; Pte. W. Robson, 7th Batt., 358.

Major Sam Hugh's, M.P., moved, seconded by Major Mason, that the report be adopted. The motion was carried.

Lieut. Crooks, the treasurer, reported a balance on hand of about \$50 after paying all expenses.

The prizes for the 10-men teams were presented by Hon. Mackenzie Bowell and Hon. J. M. Gibson.

Major-General Herbert was invited to present the other prizes and to preface the act by a speech. The major-general spoke as follows: "I will not waste the time of this meeting by mere complimentary remarks, since I feel sure that there are many here who hope, and perhaps expect, that I should give some more solid comfort, something that they can take home as a pledge of a good time coming, and that they can tell to comrades who, though not here, have helped to keep up the love of rifle shooting through a long period of discouraging circumstances. (Applause.) I do not know whether I shall be able to satisfy these hopes. I can only state a few facts, and if these are not sufficient I shall have to refer you to those who are greater than I, and who have acquired by training and experience the art of giving pleasing answers to all questions. (Laughter.) You will, no doubt, remember that a vote was taken in Parliament this year for improved small arms. I was subsequently commissioned to consult with the highest technical authorities in England with a view to determine how to obtain the best value for the money voted. In pursuance of my instructions, I have made arrangements by which, without exceeding the small sum placed at my disposal, there will be delivered in Canada in the course of the next two months a consignment of the rifles which I hope to see eventually in the hands of every Canadian militia man. (Loud cheers.) By the arrangements which I propose to make, and I hope that the Government will in this give me its necessary and substantial approval, it will be possible for

every battalion in this country to make the acquaintance of the Martini-Metford rifle by this time next year. (Loud cheers.) I have no apprehension as to the result of that acquaintance. I believe the general verdict will coincide with the opinion of one of the best authorities in England on small arms, who declares the Martini-Metford "the best single loader that has ever been tried at Enfield." I think that if this result is obtained the country will have no reason to find fault with the manner in which the money voted this year has been spent, and that there need be no hesitation about proceeding with those measures, which I earnestly advocate, for the gradual and systematic rearming of the militia force. I have further made arrangements which, if finally approved by the Government, should cause the entire disappearance of both the Snider and the Martini-Henry rifles from the Dominion Association matches of 1894. I do not propose to lead you into the maze of figures connected with this question, nor would it be proper for me to say more in anticipation of the decision which must be pronounced on it by those in whose hands rests the direction of the policy of this country with regard to this and other matters. I shall not, however, be transgressing the bounds of official reserve in saying that the manner in which important questions concerning the defence of this part of the empire have recently been approached by Canadian statesmen of both political parties inspires me with full confidence that this question also will be dealt with in a practical and statesmanlike spirit. (Cheers.) It has been my duty to point out in a report that has been before the public, that rearmament does not only involve the purchase of a certain number of new rifles, but it also includes the provision of a suitable ammunition and rifle ranges, and of the measures necessary to preserve the arms in good condition. The calculation of cost therefore, becomes a somewhat complicated affair, involving the distribution of a capital expenditure over a series of years. I will only say this in reference to the question of cost, and mind, this is not a random statement, but one which I have carefully considered. For every year that this country delays its rearmament it will increase the ultimate cost of that rearmament by \$50,000. What I mean is this: Had the rearmament been begun a year ago it would have saved the country \$50,000. If it is put off again next year it will cost the country another \$50,000, if two years \$100,000, and so on annually in a progression, the sum of which it is easy to calculate. I assume that rearmament must take place sooner or later, if any military force is to be kept up in this country, and if the operation is postponed for five years the cost of the country will be a quarter to a million more than if it were begun to-day. (Hear, hear.) I will trespass on your patience only a moment more. It may interest you to hear some more details of the weapon I have mentioned. You have heard its character, and it has other points to recommend itself. First, its ballistic qualities are the same as those of the Lee-Metford, the imperial army rifle, and the ammunition that