

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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Topics of the Week.

Mr. Wm. Mulock, M.P. for North York, and president of the Ontario Rifle Association, has rendered the Dominion good service by the timely resolution he presented to the House of Commons last week, affirming the devotion and loyalty of the Canadian people to the Queen and Throne. His object, as he explained, was to give an authoritative answer to the rumours industriously circulated in the press of the United States, and gaining currency in England, that Canada was disaffected towards the Empire, and ready for annexation to the States. Mr. Mulock's patriotic speech upon the subject was one of his best efforts in Parliament. His seconder was Lieut.-Col. Amyot, M.P. for Bellechasse, who commands the 9th Battalion. His speech too was thoroughly patriotic, and it was in great part devoted to proof of how steadfastly the French-Canadians have striven to maintain British connection whenever a severance was broached.

Those who have been interested in the accounts appearing from time to time in these columns of the progress of the cadet movement in Montreal, will be pleased to note in this issue the superiority in drill already acquired by the youthful Highlanders being trained by the enthusiastic Adjutant of the Fifth Royal Scots. The encouragement—as yet scant, it is true—given by the Government for the formation of these cadet corps, would if fully taken advantage of be a source of no little strength to the militia system, and assist materially in imbuing the youth of the country with the patriotic zeal characteristic of volunteer militiamen.

A welcome addition to the literature of the proposed efficiency competition, is the letter of Capt. C. Greville Harston, appearing in this issue, and in which he virtually makes a friendly challenge to the Grenadiers' doughty neighbours the Queen's Own Rifles and the Thirteenth Battalion, to enter upon such a competition and thus decide for the year at least the relative all-round efficiency. It is to be hoped his badinage will be accepted in the spirit of fun in which we are sure it was written, and that not only the corps mentioned, but all others aspiring to places in the first rank will signify their readiness to submit to some official comparative test to be agreed upon.

The annual business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association was held yesterday, 5th inst. So purely formal, and devoid of immediate interest, were the proceedings, that considering the press of other matter we defer until next week the detailed report printed as a matter of record. The announcement was made at the general meeting that Rideau range has been secured for a further period of five years, and that ten additional targets will probably be placed there next season. The executive adopted a stringent rule regarding competitors' qualifications, which will force all desiring to shoot for militia prizes to do their share in the drill and training of the force.

We do not agree with our correspondent "Bacon," in the exception he takes to the insertion of personal paragraphs such as that to which he refers. The militia of the Dominion are a great fraternity with many bonds of sympathy, not the least powerful of which is the personal friendship arising out of occasional social meetings of members from far distant localities. They thus become interested in all that concerns each other, and read with avidity such personal intelligence, however trifling, as may appear in the press.

A couple of typographical errors somewhat spoiled the very interesting letter contributed last week by Capt. G. A. McMicking on the subject of the squadding at D.R.A. meetings. In lines 27 and 28, ranges 4 and 5 should read as for from 200 to 600 yards each range. And in line 49, "singly" should be substituted for "simply." We commend the letter to the consideration of the executive.

Will our correspondent Ubique, who this week forwarded an interesting news item and a letter promising further contributions, be good enough to reveal his identity the next time he writes. It is not desired to publish his name, but for our own satisfaction we like to know who our contributors are.

The Military Rifle League.

The Canadian Military Rifle League is now an accomplished fact, permanent organization having been effected at a meeting held last evening, 5th inst., in the Tower room of the Commons building at Ottawa. The attendance was not large, but it was quite representative, amongst those present being Lieut.-Col. Wm. O'Brien, M.P., 35th Simcoe Battalion; Major F. W. Carpenter, M.P., 77th Wentworth Battalion; Lieut.-Col. F. Massey, 6th Fusiliers, Montreal; Lieut.-Col. W. P. Anderson, 43rd Battalion, Ottawa; Capt. John Hood, 5th Royal Scots, Montreal; Lieut. C. F. Winter, G.G.F.G., Ottawa; Lieuts. E. D. Sutherland and W. A. Jamieson, 43rd Battalion; Pte. W. R. Pringle, Q.O.R., Toronto, and Pte. J. D. Taylor, 43rd Battalion. Lieut.-Col. Anderson, provisional first vice-president, by request took the chair, and Pte. W. R. Pringle, provisional secretary, kept the minutes of the meeting.

The first business considered was the election of officers, and as the provisional list, whose names appeared on the circular issued in December last had met with general approval, it was unanimously de-