

The militiamen purchase, for voluntary practice, more than twice the amount of the Government issue, but of course this practice is confined to a comparative few with time and money to devote to that purpose. The issues last year were, as shown by the official returns, as follows: Free, by Government, 392,245 rounds Snider; purchased by militiamen and others, 675,047 rounds Snider and 155,655 rounds Martini; proceeds of sale, \$14,007.

If proof were needed of the excellence of the ammunition supplied from the Quebec factory, the scores regularly being made by the teams of the Military Rifle League should convince the most skeptical. The leading team of last Saturday averaged within a small fraction of 85 points per man out of the 105 possible, and there were five or six teams each averaging over 80 points. Superior ammunition is a necessity to make this possible; and these scores speak volumes also on behalf of the trustworthy but much abused Snider, showing its reliability at ranges of 600 yards and less. While the skilled marksmen excel with the Martini, the unskilled—that is, the greater portion of the militia—can, at short and mid-ranges, do quite as well with the Snider as with the more modern weapon.

Remembering the sad trouble they had with the first product of our cartridge factory, a few years ago, the Dominion riflemen will sympathise with those of the mother country in the complaints they are now uttering of the Martini ammunition of 1890 issue. Several private tests have been recorded, in every instance an excessive variation in the charge being shown. The latest report is from an expert who examined 20 rounds issued at the Surrey county meeting, and found a difference sufficient to cause a drop of 3 ft. 9 ins. between two shots fired at 500 yards! When with their long experience the English makers can make such a mess of their work, we can afford to look with leniency on the mistakes made in the first output of our factory, and since corrected.

We are requested to state that all competitors at the meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association are requested to attend and take part in the Military Rifle League business meeting to be held that week, as it is desired that every corps in the country should take an active interest in it. There appears to be a feeling on the part of many well-wishers of the League that it has not brought to the ranges as many new men as might have been expected, or as would have come out were the teams larger, and it is understood that a proposition will be made that for next season the teams shall be enlarged to fifteen or twenty men each.

Since our last issue it has been decided to place the trophy given by Hon. Honore Mercier to the Dominion Artillery Association, as first prize in the 64-pr. competition (and not the aggregate of 64 and 40-pr. as before proposed). It will have to be won by the same Battery three times in succession to become their absolute property.

Bisley range was formally opened on Saturday afternoon last, with considerable ceremony. The Prince and Princess of Wales were received by the Chairman and Council of the N.R.A. at the Camp Station of the new tramway, into which the special Royal train was shunted. Their Royal Highnesses then proceeded to the 500 yards firing point in front of the great 90-target butt. An address was presented by the Duke of Cambridge, president of the Association, and replied to by the Prince of Wales. The Princess then fired the first shot from one of the new service rifles on a machine rest, and was presented by the Chairman of the Council with the gold medal of the Association in commemoration of the occasion. Their Royal Highnesses then inspected a portion of the butts and of the ground.

The competitions commenced on Monday, the Alexandra—500 and 600 yards, 7 shots—being the first of the Grand Aggregate matches to be fired. There were 325 prizes offered, and upwards of two thousand competitors. Four of the Canadian twenty got into the prize list, these being Ogg, Hutcheson, Henderson (£3 each) and Marris (£2). Last year the Canadians took nine prizes in this match, but that was an exceptionally large proportion. The first stage of the Queen's will be completed by the time this reaches our readers, the 200 yards range being fired on Tuesday, the 500 yards on Wednesday, and the 600 yards on Thursday.

### Personal.

Lieut.-General Sir Redvers Buller, V. C., who succeeds Lord Wolseley as adjutant-general of the army, is best known for the part he took in the Soudan war, when he acted as Lord Wolseley's chief of staff. He previously saw much honourable service. He was gazetted 2nd lieutenant in 1858, lieutenant in 1862, captain in 1870, major in 1874, lieutenant-colonel in 1878, and colonel in 1879. He is also aide-de-camp to the Queen. He was one of Lord Wolseley's companions in arms in the Red River expedition, and also accompanied him to Ashantee. He fought valiantly in the Zulu war when Lord Clemsford came to grief, and materially aided Lord Wolseley in the last Egyptian campaign, taking a prominent part in the battles of El Teb and Tamai.

Capt. W. H. Hill, of the 57th Battalion, Peterborough Rangers, was married lately, and on his return from the wedding trip met with a pleasant surprise in the shape of a visit from the district representatives of the Sun Life Assurance Co., of which Capt. Hill is manager for Central Ontario. After having read a complimentary address they handed to Capt. Hill a handsome gold-headed cane, suitably inscribed, and also a beautiful silver tray and Japanese five o'clock tea set for Mrs. Hill. Subsequently the 57th Battalion band paid the officer and his bride the compliment of a serenade.

Editorially referring to Lieut.-General Sir Fred Middleton's resignation of the command of the Militia, the Toronto *Empire*, chief organ of the Dominion Government, says:—"In losing him the volunteer force of this Dominion is bidding adieu to one who fulfilled his duties well, who was a faithful friend to the force, and who will not soon be forgotten by the rank and file of our volunteers. . . . They will not grudge to bid a kindly farewell to this loyal and brave old British soldier. He retires from the service after a most brilliant career."

Capt. Smith, R.N.R., from Halifax, and Lt.-Col. Anderson (43rd Bn., Ottawa), chief engineer of the Marine Department, this week set out on a surveying expedition in the Lower St. Lawrence river and gulf. They will note and report upon the movements of the tides, and choose sites for several new lighthouses proposed to be erected. Their work will take several weeks to accomplish.

The service papers just to hand contain the official notification of the appointment of Lieut. W. G. Stairs, the Canadian R.M.C. graduate who accompanied Stanley on his African expedition, to be adjutant of the Royal Engineer Troops, dating from 7th June.

Capt. H. B. MacKay, D.S.O., Royal Engineers, one of our Military College graduates, has been offered and has accepted service under the Imperial British East African Company.

Col. E. O. Hewett, C.M.G., Royal Engineers, who was the first commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, has been promoted to the rank of Major General.

Sir Francis de Winton, K.C.M.G., C.B., for a time on the staff of the Governor General in Canada, has been granted the honorary rank of Major General in the Army.

A plan has been prepared by M. Krupp, of Essen, to construct a canal to put the Danube and Vienna in communication with the Adriatic. He has submitted this plan to the Austrian Government.

As early as the campaign in Spain, in 1367, in support of Peter the Cruel, and also in the following reign of Richard II, the English soldier appears to have been in white with a red cross of St. George on his breast and back. At Agincourt, in 1415, the English archers are mentioned as mostly wearing no armour and some only doublets, and with their hose loose, evidently to give them greater freedom of action. Caps of boiled leather and of wicker work crossed with bands of iron constituted their best head pieces. It was only after a long campaign, or series of campaigns, that the ordinary soldier could provide himself with portions of defensive armour.