

Correspondence.

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THE PROPOSED RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have a few suggestions to make concerning the Rifle League, and in making them feel that I speak for many other riflemen in St. John. These are: 1st. That the prizes should be awarded to the teams making the highest aggregate scores, instead of those winning the greatest number of matches. 2nd. That the times of firing should be, two in May, two in June, two in July, and one in August—seven in all. August is pretty much taken up with the provincial and other big meetings, and it is desirable that the League matches should all be over before the D. R. A. meeting, when there can be a meeting of all the teams and suggestions made for the next year's League. I would suggest also, three big telegraphic matches such as that recently held—one on the Queen's Birthday, one on Dominion Day, and one on some other day suitable. These arouse a great deal of interest on the part of the outside public; at least that is our experience down here. The non-appearance of a couple of our chosen men prevented our taking part in the recent match, and the public are quite eager for the next chance.

BRUNSWICK.

St. John, N.B., 19th October.

The Khedive has conferred the Orders of the Osmanie and Medjidie on 13 British officers who were brought to notice for their services during the operations at Suakim in December last.

The Vienna *Bulletin Militaire* publishes an imperial order increasing all the infantry regiments by 86 men each, being a total addition to the 102 regiments of the army of about 9,000 men. This brings the infantry to a war footing. The 41 regiments of cavalry, however, are to be reduced by 36 men each.

In an article in the *Illustrated Military and Naval Magazine* on Range Finding, by Capt. Willoughby Verner, the "Weldon" is represented as the best range finder for infantry, being portable and strong, not liable to get out of adjustment, capable of being used by a man single-handed for stationary objects, and able to take the range of moving objects with ease.

In commenting upon the magnitude of the forth-coming naval review as compared with those of the last two years, most of the papers overlook the fact that in some respects, at least, it is far smaller than that of 1856, after the Crimean war. In weight of guns and in destructive power the world never saw such a formidable array as will assemble at Spithead next week; but in 1856, 300 ships took part against about 170 this year, and, while those 170 will only carry some 25,000 men, there were 30,000 on board the 1856 fleet. Though the event of thirty-three years ago was more or less of a fiasco through some of the vessels becoming unmanageable, the mighty squadron with white sails set (the steamers were comparatively few) afforded a far nobler sight than will the heterogeneous collection of machines which all the world will in a few days be running to gaze at.—*Hawk*.

The results of the recent field firing by the British troops at Aldershot, when two regiments of cavalry, machine gun detachments, and five and a half battalions of infantry took part in the operations, have been issued by General Sir Evelyn Wood (umpire in chief), who remarks that the cavalry were employed more to test their skill in collective firing than as an example of their proper role in war. They fired from three positions advancing, and from two positions retiring, driving the advanced scouts of the enemy back as far as the butts. There the enemy was supposed to have been reinforced and to have compelled the cavalry to retire. The enemy's scouts were represented by a succession of rows of dummies varying from 300 to 400 yards apart. Out of the total of 4,271 rounds fired 505 hits were made, or a percentage of 11.82. Respecting the infantry field firing, Sir Evelyn Wood explains that the enemy's front line was marked by dummies 3 feet high, about one yard apart, and extending over 800 yards; his second line (supports and reserves) by screens 6 feet high and 30 yards apart, and his guns by screens and dummies about 400 yards in rear of the first line. The ground was covered with deep heather, most unfavorable for observing and correcting the fire. The actual distance from the main position was from 1,300 to 200 yards, and in the firing line 1,468 hits were made; supports and reserves, 1,438; and by guns and gunners, 145. The number of men engaged was 2,839, and the number of rounds fired by the men 20,308. The value of the fire, it is remarked, should not be judged by the percentage of hits, but by considering the extent to which the enemy's position generally was swept by a low and level fire.

Regimental and Other News.

The 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, commanded by Col. Humphrey, underwent their annual inspection on the 10th October, before Lt.-Col. Worsley, D.A.G. The regiment assembled at the drill shed, and proceeded to the Common, where they formed in line, and received the inspecting officer with a general salute. He then rode down the line, and formed quarter column on the right company. Each was then minutely inspected, and the inspecting officer expressed himself as much pleased with the clean and smart appearance of the men. The regiment then marched past in column, quarter-column, and at the double; a line was formed to the left on the run, after which the battalion advanced in line in review order. The regiment was put through the manual and firing exercises by Major Weston, and Captains Brown and Chipman were then called to the front and exercised the regiment in several movements. Col. Humphrey then resumed command and put the regiment through a number of manoeuvres in line, column, squares and extended order; at the conclusion of which the regiment, headed by their splendid band and drum and fife corps, marched through some of the principal streets to the drill shed, where the rolls were called by Col. Murray, District Paymaster, showing there were about 300 men on parade. The fine appearance of the men, and the splendid condition of their arms and clothing, was particularly noticeable, and their drill was performed with much precision.

A ceremony which will be of interest to military men in many parts of Canada, took place at Woodstock, Ont., this week, being the marriage of Miss Catherine Scobie McKay and Mr. Wm. Mahlon Davis. The groom is the popular Adjutant of the 22nd Battalion "Oxford Rifles," and is the senior member of the firm of Davis & Van Buskirk, Civil Engineers, Woodstock and Stratford. Capt. Davis is a well known military man, being one of the first graduates of the Royal Military College, Kingston, popularly known as the "old 18." After graduating from the college he practiced civil engineering in the United States, and was for some time city engineer of St. Joseph, Missouri. Subsequently returning to Canada he "located" in Woodstock, forming a partnership with Capt. Van Buskirk, 22nd Batt., also a graduate of the R.M.C., and was shortly afterwards appointed engineer of that town as well as of the county, and the firm now have a very large practice both in Woodstock and Stratford. He identified himself with the militia by joining the 22nd Batt. as Adjutant with rank of Captain.

Toronto.

At a meeting of the officers of Toronto Garrison, held Monday night, arrangements were completed for the Thanksgiving Day parade, near High Park, in which besides the city corps the Thirteenth from Hamilton and the Brantford Rifles will take part. Arrangements are being made for low fares for visiting corps. The sham fight will take place in the country immediately west of the High Park, finishing at the west of Grenadier Pond. It will be followed by a luncheon. Then there will be a review and a march home. In the evening the visiting officers will be entertained at luncheon by the officers of the city garrison.

The Army and Navy veterans are arranging to celebrate Inkerman by a grand banquet which will be partaken of by the heroes who suffered and conquered in the Crimea and also by their comrades who fought and bled on equally glorious fields in other parts of the world. This will be the first appearance of the society band.

At the police court, last week, an old pensioner, Richard Byron, once Colour-Sergeant in the 100th Regiment, acknowledged that he was a vagrant, had no home, or any visible means of support, and got \$1 and costs or 30 days. His pay station is Halifax, and he was on his way to Barricade.

THE GRENADIERS.

The Royal Grenadiers paraded on Thursday evening last about 320 strong. They marched out by way of Jarvis, Gerard and Yonge to Wellington st. where they practised battalion drill and marched past under Lieut. Col. Dawson. While the regiment was out, Sergts. Allen and Rogers put the recruits through their facings.

The regimental orders were as follows:—Second Lieut. Dixon will be attached to "H" Company until further orders. Blank forms of target practice returns and pay lists can be obtained at the orderly-room, and officers commanding companies will be good enough to have the former filled in and returned to the orderly-room without delay. The pay lists must be completed before the inspection, which will take place on Nov. 7. The commanding officer has been pleased to make the following promotions and appointments, to take effect from this date:—To be colour-sergeant, Sergt. G. T. Blake, vice Jack, invalided. To be sergeants, Lance-Sergt. Ph. Foley, "C" company, vice Moore, discharged; Lance-Sergt. H. Dye, "C" company, vice Price, discharged; Corp. O. Freemantle, "D" Company, vice Blake, promoted. To be lance-sergeant,