

# 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.

Those interested are reminded that the annual business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association will be held at Ottawa on Wednesday next, 5th February, commencing at eleven o'clock. The annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association will be held at the same time and place the day following. On Wednesday a meeting will also be held at Ottawa for the purpose of establishing the proposed Canadian Military Rifle League.

Noticing the proposition for simultaneous telegraphic matches under the auspices of a Canadian Military Rifle League the *Volunteer Service Gazette* says:—"We wish the scheme every success, as anything that increases the attraction of military rifle shooting must be most useful. Simultaneous matches have not been, on the whole, successful at home; but in the Dominion of Canada, where the distances are too great to admit of much visiting on the part of rifle teams they may, and we hope will be more popular."

Our Hamilton contributor, as will be noted in the Regimental News columns, strongly advocates the appointment of Capt. Jas. Adam, of the 13th Battalion, as adjutant of the next Wimbledon team. Without pronouncing upon the relative merits of the officers ambitious for the adjutancy of the team for 1890, we can say, without fear of contradiction, that it would be hard to find one more zealous or more experienced than Capt. Adam; who has the reputation, justified by results achieved, of being a very excellent coach. By a happy coincidence, our readers hear from Capt. Adam himself this very week, as he contributes an interesting letter on the subject of the proposed efficiency competition, which he thinks would be a good thing for all participating.

With our correspondent who writes in this issue upon the subject of the selection of the Wimbledon team, we agree that there should be some change from the method now in vogue, for while this is as fair to

one as to the other, and creates no grievance for the individual competitor, it is notorious that through it many men make their way into the sixty and even on the team who are notoriously inferior shots with the Martini-Henry. An average marksman who worries along pretty nicely with the Snider will often be found to be quite unable to master the more precise Martini. While there are several objections that might be urged against our correspondent's plan, we trust that the subject which his letter opens up will be seriously considered by the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association.

By the way, there is anything but unanimity of feeling amongst the riflemen that the only business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association should be that held during the Session of Parliament, under auspices altogether too imposing for the average shooting man, who would feel himself out of place at the meeting, or at least would there run the risk of being given to understand that that was no place for him to air his ideas. It is, of course, very kind of Parliament to annually vote \$10,000 towards the Dominion Association, and pleasant that the Governor-General and a host of Senators, Members of Parliament, and high officers should assemble once a year and make speeches about rifle shooting, and refer all the business to the Council. It is further very good of the members of the Council to devote the time they do to the thankless task of managing the affairs of the Association. He would be an ungrateful rifleman who failed to appreciate the services they render. But at the same time the ordinary member should be afforded an opportunity of making his influence felt. He is overshadowed and overawed at the grandees' meeting; and as for the competitors' meeting held the week of the shooting, the resolutions there passed have the force only of recommendations. We think it would be an improvement if every competitor were made a member, and a regular business meeting held in shooting week. At this meeting business could be prepared and put before the Council for consideration and report, the latter to be presented at the annual meeting held during Session.

The demand made in our correspondence columns for a supply of paid adjutants for the militia will, we fear, be looked upon as a cry for luxuries when money for the necessities of the force is not forthcoming. That a paid officer devoting the greater part of his working time to the service would be kept well occupied in the instruction of a city corps, and that these corps would be immensely benefited by his services, there is no doubt. But for the present there are various more profitable ways of spending any extra money that the Minister may be able to get from Parliament.

Through some inadvertence several batteries failed in 1889 to comply with the conditions entitling them to compete in the Ontario Association competitions, for which their scores made under D.A.A. auspices would otherwise count. As will be seen by the official advertisement in another column, a motion relieving them from their disability is to be proposed at the forthcoming annual meeting of the association, to be held at Toronto on the 11th February.