

that date has averaged 225,000 men. After drawing their numbers in the lottery, the men liable for service are examined by a medical commission. Of the 380,000 who take part in the lot-drawing, about two-thirds are found fit for service, and the required contingent is obtained from these in the order of the numbers drawn. The rest are rejected either on account of physical infirmity or insufficient stature (under 4 ft. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ in). Although the recruit may legally be called upon for six years' service with the colours, he is usually dismissed on leave long before the expiration of this period. Since 1881 the annual contingent has been divided into two categories, one of which serves about five years and the other one year with the colours. The second category has, however, rarely exceeded 25,000. Under the new regulations, men who join the colours after taking part in the lottery will be required to serve a uniform term of five years in the Active Army and thirteen in the Reserve. Volunteers and graduates of the universities will, as hitherto, enjoy certain privileges. Their service in the Active Army will be reduced to four, three, and in some cases two years, after which they will complete their eighteen years' service in the Reserve.

Some years ago the advisability of abolishing the cuirass in the French Army was seriously discussed, and was recommended by a commission of distinguished officers; but, probably through deference to popular feeling on the subject, no War Minister has hitherto ventured to carry out their suggestions. During the last few weeks the subject has once more been opened, *apropos* of the abolition of the cuirass in Germany. A writer in the *Temps*, however, lifts up his voice in no uncertain way against the proposed change. The fact, he says, that the Germans have dispensed for the moment with this protection is no argument against its retention in France; for they are even now experimenting with a new system of defensive armour in which only the breast-plate is retained. The cuirass, the writer admits, affords little or no protection against rifle fire, but in the future campaign the cuirassiers are not likely to be called upon frequently to charge infantry in mass. It is against the enemy's cavalry that the cuirassiers will be found most useful, and in a cavalry *melee* the value of the cuirass can scarcely be over-estimated.

Mounted Infantry

(United Service Gazette.)

The formation of the new Mounted Infantry Regiment, which is being called into existence in order to provide picked infantry soldiers capable of acting with the cavalry, and of using their rifles and bayonets to the greatest advantage when great rapidity of movement is desired, has begun. During the commencement of operations in Egypt much importance was attached to the use of mounted infantry, and no doubt in the absence of cavalry they did excellent service. So far as mounted infantry have been used in warfare, they have simply moved during the day or night to positions which it would have been impossible for men on foot to have reached in so short a space of time; or they have been used for the duties of cavalry owing to the absence of that branch of the service. One great advantage that can be gained by mounted infantry arises from the greater range of weapons and the free use of the legs owing to their wearing boots and gaiters. To this some will add their greater knowledge of foot-drill; but possibly this is merely an idea, and unless mounted infantry are intended to manoeuvre on foot in battalions, they would have little advantage over the cavalry. One gain that will accrue from having a certain number of men mounted in each infantry regiment is that they will do away to a certain extent with the necessity of having divisional cavalry, as one company in each regiment mounted could do the scouting duty of its own battalion. In fact, the utility of mounted infantry has now passed argument. In the great American war, in the Indian mutiny, and in the war in South Africa, in fact, upon every occasion on which they have been tried, the utility of mounted infantry has been clearly established. The most perfect mounted infantry (although never called by that name) were the western men of the prairies who for years waged war with the Sioux Indians. These men never fought on horseback against their mounted foes, but, when attacked, dismounted and kept at bay enormously superior numbers of the enemy. They were magnificent shots, accomplished in all the arts of scouting, and full of reliance, not only on their horses but in their rifles. The introduction of mounted infantry as an integral portion of the British army has been warmly advocated by our leading military authorities, but until now little has been done to give effect to this movement. However much may have been said for it during the progress of each war, it is a matter of experience, that when peace came the matter was quietly shelved, not to be resuscitated until the next outbreak of one of our "small wars."

THE DOMINION RIFLE MEETING.

The Great Match for the Governor-General's Prizes and for Wimbledon.

Prize lists for the Extra Series Matches—The Formal Presentation—Details of the close of the meeting.

The glorious weather characteristic of the whole week, prevailed again on Friday last, the closing day of the Dominion rifle meeting. First thing in the morning the marksmen honoured by being chosen to represent their provinces faced the targets for the annual provincial team competition for the London Merchants' Cup. The teams consisted of eight men each, and were supposed to embrace the pick of each province. The conditions of the match called for seven shots each at 200, 500 and 600 yards, with Martini rifles. The 200 yards range was first fired. Whether it was because the importance of the contest had unnerved the marksmen, or, as is more probable, because they had no recent Martini practice at that distance and did not know the sighting of their rifles, the scoring here was low. Nova Scotia, with 241 points, an average of slightly over 30 per man, and Prince Edward Island, with 238, were the only teams to score reasonably high, the others being rather lower than the usual average, with respectively: Ontario, 232; Manitoba, 228; Quebec, 227; and New Brunswick 223 points, there being thus a difference of 18 points between the first and last of the six provincial teams entered. British Columbia was not represented, not having eight men upon the ground. It had been generally supposed that the contest would be between Ontario and Nova Scotia, with Quebec perhaps well in the race, and the result at the first range showed a likelihood that this expectation would be fulfilled. Prince Edward Island, though high, was not looked upon as a dangerous competitor at the longer ranges, and the same was true of Manitoba, whilst New Brunswick had done very badly on the start, being even less than inners for the range.

When the firing at 500 yards was over, it became apparent that, bar accidents, the contest would indeed lie as expected. Ontario putting on an average of 30 points per man, had jumped from third to first place, Nova Scotia had lost 13 points at this range, and was now second, with 468, three points less than the leader. Then there was a big drop, to 453, at which Quebec and Prince Edward Island tied, Manitoba and New Brunswick being practically out of the race, with totals of 441 and 436 respectively. At the 600 yards range, the concluding stage, Ontario again topped the list, with 207 points additional; Quebec had added 205, and with the narrow lead of three points wrested second place from Nova Scotia, whose representatives only put together 186 points, the second lowest in the field. The complete scores then stood as follows:

1st, Ontario, The Cup and \$100—		2nd, Quebec, \$80—	
Pte. McVittie, 10th R.G.....	91	Sergt. Clarke, 53rd	90
Sergt. Kimmerly, 47th.....	90	" Johnson, 85th.....	85
Capt. McMicking, 44th.....	88	Lieut. Spearing, 53rd.....	85
Sergt. Short, Guards.....	86	Staff-sergt. Wynne, 5th R.S.....	84
Staff-sergt. Mitchell, 10th R.G.....	84	Sergt. Goudie, 8th Rifles.....	84
Pte. Sutherland, Guards.....	82	Capt. Jameson, 60th.....	79
Major Wilson, R. L.....	80	Sergt. Clarke, 5th R.S.....	79
Pte. Armstrong, Guards.....	78	Capt. Hood.....	72
Total.....	679	Total.....	658

The other team scores were:

Nova Scotia.....	654
Manitoba.....	640
Prince Edward Island.....	626
New Brunswick.....	623

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MATCH.

At half-past ten the contest for the crowning honours and financially richest plums commenced. Like the provincial team match, it was fired with the Martini, at 200, 500 and 600 yards. The wind was more bothersome than earlier in the day, and contrary to expectation the scores ruled lower than in the London Merchants' Cup Match just concluded. The scores at the 200 yards range were not looked upon as a safe index of the probable winners of the three great money prizes, but when at the close of the 500, Capt. Hartt, of the St. John Rifles, and Pte. McVittie, of the Grenadiers, were found to lead with 62 points each, the figuring on the probabilities became closer. Lieut. Rogers, of the 43rd, was third with 61 points. Tom Mitchell was close up, and he too had to be reckoned with. As the shooting progressed at 600 yards, it became evident that the leaders would maintain their places, except Lieut. Rogers, who, after a good start, got toward the edge of the target and finally, with his last shot, missed altogether. His total was 83. A bullseye would have given him third money, \$100, and with an inner he would have tied for it. Another of the same regiment, Staff-Sergt.