

taken to the range and every man's score entered on the spot, and verified by the signature of an officer and non-commissioned officer. In Canada there is not so great an inducement to falsify the returns, as a man's pay is forthcoming whether he be efficient or not, so long as he has put in the stipulated time at drill. It is a matter of notoriety, however, that in many instances no attempt is made to have the returns, particularly for target practice, correct, and it would not be at all a bad idea for the regulations upon this subject to be more strictly enforced.

Lord Wantage, chairman of the council of the National Rifle Association, is a leader in the movement to present a fitting testimonial to Capt. E. St. John Mildmay, who has retired from the office of Secretary after thirty years service. The fund committee consists of the Duke of Westminster, Brigadier-General Lord Wantage, and no end of other Lords, Earls, Sir Knights, Generals, Colonels, and Esquires, who have made an excellent beginning, for the published list now amounts to nearly eight hundred pounds, from the first twenty-seven subscribers. Four noblemen head the list with the handsome gift of £100 each. Our Dominion Association might gracefully contribute its mite, as a token that Capt. Mildmay's civilities to our representatives have not been unappreciated or forgotten.

A skeptic named Capt. Grant is reported to have said recently, addressing a corps of English volunteers, that "the shots of Wimbledon men would tell so little in war that they would always be inclined to challenge the marker." There is something the facetious critic did not take into his reckoning; the marking is automatic in action and the target could not stand so completely unmoved, nor lie so unconcernedly, as does that on the rifle range when a bullet pierces the bullseye unheeded by the marker.

Elsewhere will be found a report of the annual business meeting of the Council of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association. It will be noticed that interesting additions to the programme are in contemplation for next prize meeting, these including a special battalion competition for large teams. Quebec has only to try this experiment for the Dominion to follow suit. The poor showing made by the provincial team in the Merchants' Cup Match at the last D.R.A. meeting is referred to, and the blame is properly placed upon the method of choice, which is now to be improved upon.

### Regimental and Other News.

The popular officer who for many years past has been adjutant of the Tenth Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, was married at Harriston, Ont., last week, to one of the belles of that place. This is from the Toronto *Mail's* despatch concerning the affair:—"One of the most pleasing events that has occurred here for some time was the wedding of Capt. Manley, of Toronto, to Mrs. Gordon, of this place, which occurred to-day. In spite of the inclemency of the weather little St. George's was filled to the utmost by friends of the bride, who, with her bridesmaids, was the cynosure of every eye. A pleasant feature of the celebration was the presence of the groom's mother, who astonished everybody by her vivacity and youthful appearance. After the celebration a breakfast was partaken of at the residence of the bride's sister, where a large number of friends gathered. The presence of the Mayor of the town, Mr. Dowling, added not a little to the jollity of the occasion. When the bride and groom took the train for the west on their honeymoon feasting and fun were still the order of the hour, and everyone joined in wishing them *bon voyage* and a happy return."

Four sergeants and some men of the Fifth Royal Scots have asked their discharge because the post of Sergeant-Major has been given, not to the senior non-com. qualified, but to Pte. Niven, a thoroughly competent man who once before held the position, but had to resign during the small-pox riots of a few years ago, because he could not spare the time when the regiment was ordered out. The trouble has been duly written up in the Montreal papers, arguments pro and con being stated at length; but in the meantime Sergt.-Major Niven is not disturbed in his appointment.

### Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

#### DRESS AT RIFLE MEETINGS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I see that you are inviting communications from your subscribers on matters of interest to volunteers and volunteering generally, and I am very glad of the opportunity to air a grievance, which, I am sorry to say, is very noticeable at the P. Q. R. A., P. O. R. A. and C. R. A. meetings. To be brief, it is the habit some volunteers have of appearing on the field at these competitions improperly dressed, and without any consideration for the Militia Regulations whatever.

One case, in particular, which I would mention, was brought to my notice at the last P. Q. R. A. meeting at Montreal. An officer (a captain) appeared on the field in the morning in drill order, with a white linen collar showing over his jacket and the top hook left unfastened to show a necktie; in one hand his trusty Snider, and in the other a faded gingham umbrella! That he was not a poor weather prophet the sequel will show, for on my way home after the day's shooting I passed this "officer" with his umbrella up to keep off the driving rain and the aforesaid Snider snugly ensconced within its cavernous depths. I really could not bring myself to salute him, and, indeed, what would he have done had I saluted?

Now, Mr. Editor, we have all seen the men who will persist in wearing white collars above the standing collar of the tunic or patrol jacket, and I think that if you start an agitation against these little errors we would soon have an improvement in the dress of the militia force of Canada. At present the range officers are not strict enough in enforcing the regulation concerning the dress of the competitor; let them be distinctly instructed to allow no officer or man to shoot who is not dressed in accordance with the regulations for the Active Militia.

All we volunteers look upon your little paper, Mr. Editor, as a species of oracle, and have no doubt that you have but to turn another cog to have these things attended to in due course, and looking for a favourable criticism on the above in your next issue

I am yours truly

Montreal, 26th December, 1889.

MARK IV.

### Foreign and American Ordnance.

(U. S. Army and Navy Journal.)

Lieutenant William Crozier, Ordnance Department, U. S. A., who was sent abroad last spring to investigate the subject of carriages for heavy guns especially and the subject of ordnance generally, has returned to Washington brimful of valuable information. Acting under instructions from the War Department, he procured three of the latest and most useful types of gun carriages. Two of these, purchased in England, are for 12-inch mortars, and the other, procured in France, is for a 12-inch gun. He also obtained a number of new ballistic instruments, which will be of great assistance to the Ordnance Bureau in designing modern carriages.

In the course of a general conversation with a *Journal* correspondent about his observations abroad, Lieutenant Crozier says that we are fully abreast of the times in the matter of heavy gun construction, but that England, France and Germany are away ahead of us in their carriages. The few type built-up steel guns we have made compare more than favourably with the best of the same kind of guns built in any other part of the world. At the present time, he says, several of the leading foreign powers are giving much attention to wire-wound guns, and the progress thus far made indicates that this is likely to be the gun of the future. England has made some very successful trials with a 6-inch and 9¼-inch gun of this type, and is now having one of 13½-inch calibre built. Russia, also, is building a 6-inch wire-wound gun, which its designers claim will be superior to any of the present style built-up gun.

The subjects of small arms and smokeless powder also receive considerable attention from Lieut. Crozier, whose keen powers of observation led him to other fields than those specially assigned him. Notwithstanding all that has been said and written to the contrary, Lieut. Crozier regards the smokeless powder question as still unsettled, and one that will require much further investigation and experiment before any entirely satisfactory results are reached. He is reliably informed that both France and Germany have found the smokeless powder adopted as the standard powder for their respective countries during the present year objectionable in many respects, and have within the past six months changed to different standards. These he regards as largely experimental. Switzerland, he says, is the only foreign country that has thus far adopted a smokeless powder and stuck to it. The latest