

The Militia Pastime.

A National Rifle Association has been established in South Australia.

The North of England volunteers are urging that, Wimbledon being necessarily abandoned, the N. R. A. prize meeting should take place at Altcar, at least in 1889.

The Guernsey Island Team of fifteen from whom will be chosen the eight to compete for the Kolapore cup at Wimbledon, are making high scoring in their practices. On the 8th of May the fifteen averaged 85 points over the three ranges, and the top eight averaged within a fraction of 88.

"Rifle shooting as a mere amusement appears to be at a standstill, but rifle shooting as a part of military instruction has never been more popular or more efficiently conducted than was the case at Creedmoor during 1887." So spoke General Wingate at the last meeting of the U. S. National Rifle Association.

The Frontier Rifle Association will have their 26th annual prize meeting on Tuesday, 12th June, and following days, the range being on the farm of Mr. Alex. Thompson, near the village of Huntingdon, Q. There are six matches on the programme, and valuable prizes are offered in each. A challenge cup presented by Dr. Wells is offered as first prize in a volley firing competition for company teams of four to six men each.

In a competition at Dunball range, England, on the 12th inst., Major Foster Barham, captain of the Somerset Twenty, made two full scores, at 500 and 600 yards respectively, there being about an hour's interval between the shooting at each range. The conditions were seven shots at each, Martini rifle, without sighting shots. At 200 yards, Major Barham made 28, which with the two 35's gave him the grand total of 98 over the three ranges.

The New York *Herald*, referring to the necessity for thorough rifle practice, caustically remarks: "This practice is a very necessary thing to equip properly a man whose duty it is to shoot when told to. There are many men who can shoot, but there are not so many who can hit what they shoot at. This was demonstrated very conclusively at the outbreak of the Civil War by the volunteers, who shot thousands of tons of lead into the air instead of into the bodies of their friends the enemy."

The Governor of Cape Colony is fully alive to the importance of encouraging rifle shooting in the force there. "To be a good marksman," he says, "a man must have a quick, clear eye, a steady hand, and a firm nerve, and to secure and retain those advantages, he must lead an active, healthy life, and 'be temperate in all things.' So that the requirements of the pursuit exercise a very beneficial influence upon the personal habits and physical condition of those who are engaged in it. Again, a thorough knowledge of the capabilities of the weapon with which he is armed, and skill in the use of it, are amongst the first requisites in any volunteer who has the slightest pretensions to be a soldier."

The first of a series of three matches to be held to select the team to represent Nova Scotia in the Inter-Maritime-Provincial match was shot at Bedford ranges on the 24th May. Over thirty competitors were present and some excellent scores were made, the first eight making an average of 89¼. The following were the scores of the ten highest (Martini rifles, 200, 500, 600.):

Gunner Fader, 1st H.G.A.	31	34	30	95
Major Weston, 66th P.L.F.	28	33	31	92
Sergeant-Major Case, 1st H.G.A.	26	29	34	89
Lieut. Fiske, 63rd Rifles	27	31	30	88
Capt. Adams, 1st H.G.A.	31	28	29	88
Lieut. Flowers, 1st H.G.A.	31	30	27	88
Major Egan, 63rd Rifles	28	31	28	87
Sergt. Corbin, "	28	27	31	86
Lieut. Dimock, 1st H.G.A.	27	32	27	86
Bomb. Campbell, "	30	29	23	82

The inter-maritime will be shot this year at Bedford between teams of eight representing Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The trophy has been purchased and will be on exhibition shortly.

Lieut. Gray and Mr. T. McJanet captured the senior and junior spoons respectively at the fourth competition of the Ottawa Rifle Club, held on Saturday afternoon last. Lieut. Gray put in an exceptionally fine score, 88 points out of 100 possible, and had a lead of nine points on the field, the next being Mr. J. W. Marks, of Montreal, with 79. These two are both on the Wimbledon team of this year, and in getting himself into trim Mr. Marks comes from Montreal every week to shoot with the Ottawa club, there being no ranges available in Montreal. The shooting was with Martini rifles, at 500 and 600 yards, ten shots at each, and the following were the scores of 50 and over:

Gray, H. H. (senior spoon)	44	44	88	Carroll, T.	41	33	74
Marks, J. W.	45	34	79	Smith, F. W.	39	34	73
Sherwood, A. P.	36	41	77	Boville, T. C.	33	33	66
Sutherland, E. D.	39	37	76	Cooke, W. E.	37	25	62
McJanet T. (junior spoon)	42	34	76	Hutchison, Dr. G.	35	25	60
Jamieson, W. A.	37	38	75	Lightfoot, F. C.	31	28	59
Hutcheson, J. E.	38	37	75	Nutting, J. P.	25	33	58
Ellis, J. H.	39	36	75	Cox, C. F.	27	29	56
Perley, H. F.	38	36	74	Holtby, W.	29	21	50

On the Queen's Birthday a keenly contested Martini match took place on the Hamilton range between teams captained by Major Mason, president of the Victoria Rifle Club; and Lieut.-Col. Gibson, ex-president, respectively. The President's team got a lead of 5 points at 200 yards, and increased it to 12 at 500, but the ex-President's put on a spurt at 600, and scoring 118 to 103, won the contest with three points to spare. The teams, with their scores, were as follows: Ex-presidents—Lt.-Col. Gibson, 82; Henry Marris, 85; O. Hancock, 70; D. Mitchell, 68; James Adam, 65—total, 370. President's—Major Mason, 66; Andrew Murdoch, 88; Dr. Ross, (Dundas) 66; Jas. R. Adam, 78; Dugald Henderson, 69—total, 367.

The Victoria Rifle Club of Hamilton at their annual meeting on the 20th inst. unanimously re-elected Major J. J. Mason president, and chose the following other officers: First-vice, Major H. McLaren; 2nd vice, Capt. E. G. Zealand; secretary-treasurer, Mr. Albert Pain; management committee, Messrs. A. Crawford, O. Hancock, P. T. Robertson, W. H. Clarke, and Capt. Adam. The other business being over, the president, Major Mason, pleasantly surprised his predecessor in office, Lieut.-Col. Gibson, M.P.P., by reading him a complimentary address from the club, expressive of their appreciation of his many years' service as president and as secretary, and asking his acceptance of a silver salver as a memento of the occasion. The salver is a very handsome piece of plate, and the address, which was engrossed by Mr. Dugald Henderson, is a work of art which reflects very great credit upon him. Col. Gibson in replying said it was a pleasing feature of the presentation that it should be received from the hands of the old veteran marksman, Mr. George Murison, who though well up in years was, as all were glad to see, still able to take his place at the firing points. He also rejoiced to see present on such an occasion men like Captain Adam, Joseph Mason, and the President, who twenty years ago, he remembered very well, kindly used their best efforts to bring him on as a promising young shot and to take him out of the list of duffers. Stronger friendships have been formed and cemented on rifle ranges than probably in any other known sport, no rifleman failing to rejoice in seeing a brilliant score made by any of his competitors.

There are upwards of 2,000 general officers in the British army, exclusive of 1,600 Indian generals who have retired.]

It is reported from Gibraltar that when the Inspector-General of fortifications, attended by other officers from England, and accompanied by the governor and staff, recently inspected the fortifications, the 100-ton gun mounted in the Magdala battery was fired at a target, with the result of breaking down the hydraulic gear on. Its recoil in the United States the breech-block of their new 10-inch gun stuck so fast in firing that, notwithstanding every effort during three weeks, it remained immovable, until it was feared that the block, which cost about £250, would have to be bored out. Evidently the high powder charges do not agree with the constitution of the modern guns and their complicated contrivances.



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