

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Sixth Year.
VOL. V, No. 31.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 31st JULY, 1890.

\$1.50 per annum in advance
Single Copies Five Cents.

SEND YOUR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Look at the date on the address label affixed to the wrapper of your paper. It shows when the period for which you have paid expired, or will expire. If the date is earlier than 31st July, 1890, you are in arrear. Be kind enough to send the money immediately, without waiting to be billed. Remit by P. O. Order (payable to J. D. Taylor) or Registered Letter. Address

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

THE BISLEY MEETING.

Details of the first week's scoring.

INFANTRY EFFICIENCY.

Result of the Niagara Camp competition.

REGIMENTAL AND OTHER NEWS.

A budget from the military centres.

OBITUARY.

The late Lt.-Col. Elijah Ketcheson.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 9, of 11th July (concluded).

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

Team scores of the fifth match.

Suggestions for next season.

MANITOBA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Scores of the annual prize meeting.

The Bisley Meeting.

The bull's eye which inaugurated the National Rifle Association shooting at Bisley has already been recorded in these columns. Further particulars to hand show that the bullet so accurately sent upon its mission was despatched by the Princess of Wales from a Lee-Burton rifle, fixed in a machine rest by Sir Henry Halford and Capt. Nathan, R.A. This inaugural ceremony was on Saturday afternoon, 12th July, in the presence of a large concourse of the nobility and gentry, civilian as well as those connected with the Volunteers. At the proper moment "commence firing" was sounded, and instantly the whole ninety targets at the great butt, five hundred yards distant, rose up into their places. Then Her Royal Highness, taking a silken cord which was attached to the trigger of the rifle, pulled it, and the "first shot" rang out; target No. 12 sank, and up came the dummy with the bull's eye signal, at which there was a great cheer from the spectators. Then after a short delay Mr. Hoey, the Clerk of the Works, came down the range bearing a "carton," which had been affixed to the bull's eye, and which showed the bullet hole within an inch of the absolute centre. This carton Mr. Hoey had the honour of delivering into the hands of Her Royal Highness, who also accepted a gold medal from Lord Wantage, in the name of the Council, as a memento of the opening of the new ranges. Target No. 12 will, no doubt, be religiously preserved among the treasures of the National Rifle Association, side by side with the rough iron slab bearing on its "centre" the mark of the Whitworth bullet fired at it by the Queen on July 2nd, 1860.

In the speech which he delivered during the preliminary proceedings, the Prince of Wales expressed special satisfaction at the participation of colonists in the N.R.A. meetings, and that the prize bearing his name had more than once been carried off by a Canadian representative. He made particular reference to veterans in the promotion of rifle shooting who were present on this occasion, and amongst those mentioned by name was Sir Casimir Gzowski, representative from Canada.

The competitions commenced on Monday morning, prompt upon time, there being no hitch to emphasize the fact that the range was new. The chief event was the Alexandra, at 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots, for 325 prizes aggregating £1,000, and ranging from £30 down to £2. The Canadians came promptly to the front, their places and prizes in this match being:

62nd. Staff-Sergt. Ogg, 1st B.F.A.....	32..31-63	£3
124th. Pte. Hutcheson, 43rd Bn.....	29..32-61	3
136th. Col.-Sgt. Henderson, 62nd Bn.....	31..30-61	3
169th. Corp. Marris, 13th Bn.....	32..29-61	2

The highest score was one of 68; then came three of 67, six of 66, eight of 65, and twenty-one of 64. Thirty-six 59's were counted out of the prize list, in which there figure four "possibles" at 500 and four at 600.

Tuesday the principal match completed was the Daily Graphic, 7 shots standing at 200 yards (taking the place of the Alfred). The reduced inner and magpie told upon the scores, as expected and intended,

and with a hundred and twenty-five prizes no less than twenty-eight 26's came into the list, fifty-one of that value being counted out; 29's were counted out last year. The first prize was taken with the phenomenal score of 34 points; next in order were two of 32 and two of 30. The Canadian winners were:

16th. Pte. Windatt, 45th Bn.....	29	£5
27th. Capt. Gray, G.G.F.G.....	28	5
60th. Sergt. Hall, 79th Bn.....	27	3

Wednesday witnessed an innovation in connection with the match which replaces the old familiar "Windmill." This is the "Graphic" (which must not be confounded with the "Daily Graphic" mentioned above, there being two matches named after the same paper). It consists, like the Windmill, of seven shots at 200 and 500 yards, but at the former range a new time limit is introduced, the seven shots being required to be fired within three minutes, the target remaining up the whole time, and the shots thus not being signalled until the whole seven are fired. The competitor, however, has had a chance to verify his judgment as to elevation and windage, for it will be remembered that this year sighting shots were re-introduced by the N.R.A., one at each range being allowed, and of course in the Graphic the sighter is spotted before the three minutes commence. The experiment appears to have been quite successful, the scores ruling high, when the smaller inner and magpie are taken into consideration. This match was to have been completed on Thursday, but an exceptionally heavy rain storm caused firing to cease before the appointed hour that afternoon, and the match remained unfinished, the scores thus not being compiled in time for the papers arriving by this week's mail.

On Thursday the first stage of the Queen's Prize competition was finished, the 600 yards range being fired that day in veritable Queen's weather, which, indeed, generally prevailed on Tuesday and Wednesday also, when the 200 and 500 yards ranges were fired. The Canadians were exceptionally successful, no less than four being found among the three hundred top scorers privileged to shoot in the second stage, and three others being "counted out" and sharing in the prizes allotted to the fourth hundred. These were the scores:—

15th. Staff-Sergt. Hogg, 1st B.F.A....	29..31..35-95.	Second stage.
89th. Capt. Bishop, 63rd Bn.....	30..34..28-92.	do
91st. Sergt. Hall, 79th Bn.....	32..32..28-92.	do
127th. Lieut. Smith, St. John Rifles....	28..34..29-91.	do
303rd. Lieut. Hora, 14th Bn.....	88.	£2
365th. Lieut. Manning, 62nd Bn.....	88.	2
373rd. Pte. Hutcheson, 43rd Bn.....	88.	2

It took a good 88 to get into the three hundred, there being only twenty-seven of that value in, and twenty-seven counted out. Last year forty-three scores of 84 got in. As to the fourth hundred, it was composed of seventy-seven men who made scores of 88, and of twenty-three with scores of 87. Seventy-two scores of 87 were counted out. Last year the fourth hundred was made up of thirty-five 84's and sixty-five 83's. The top scores also averaged higher than for some years past, the ten highest averaging this year 97.2, against 94.7 in 1889, 95.1 in 1888, 92.6 in 1887, and 97.7 in 1886. The maximum last year was 99; this year three 98's topped the list, next coming six 97's, five 96's, and ten 95's, these last headed by our Staff-Sergt. Ogg, his "possible" at 600 yards placing him there. In the scores of the "three hundred" there were two other possibles at 600 yards, and five possibles at 500. The effect of the reduced inner is plainly visible in the 200 yards scores of these crack shots. Under the old conditions, after a sighting shot a magpie would be a *rara avis* on the score, 28 points (seven 4's) being looked upon as the minimum. But in this list of three hundred we find no less than twenty-seven scores of 27 points each, twenty-two of 26, seven of 25, five of 24, and two of 23—the last named having very uphill work to make the 88 necessary to pass into the second stage. Sergt. Bates, who subsequently distinguished himself by winning the Queen's prize of £250, commenced his great task with just 26 points at the 200 yards of the first stage, in which his total was 92, he redeeming himself