

THE QUEBEC RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A SUCCESSFUL PRIZE MEETING HELD ON THE RIDEAU RANGE.

The Complete Prize Lists—Customary Peculiarities about the Military Matches—The rules summarily set aside by an officer of the Association—Incidents of the meeting.

The annual prize meeting of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association, held this year at Ottawa in place of Montreal as usual, took place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week, on the Rideau range. Twenty-three targets were provided and arrangements had been so carefully made that throughout the entire meeting the firing took place precisely at the time indicated on the competitors' tickets. The total number of entries was close on 160, close on one-third were from Ottawa city, the other Ontario entries numbering 13. The Eighth Royal Rifles of Quebec had as usual a formidable contingent, 12 in number, and the Fifth Royal Scots and Sixth Fusiliers of Montreal had also each that number of representatives. The Prince of Wales' Rifles entered 8; the Victorias 5, and the Montreal Garrison Artillery 4, the entries from Montreal thus showing a falling off nearly proportionate to the increase from Ottawa, which had more than double her usual representation. Of the Quebec province entries from places other than the cities of Montreal and Quebec, the 54th Battalion sent no less than 10, the 60th Battalion 7, and the 53rd 5.

The weather was exceedingly trying, the light being changeable, and a strong and constantly varying wind having to be dealt with during the three days' shooting. Hence the low scores which prevailed. Not a word of complaint about the Snider ammunition was heard, the Quebec manufacture of 1888 giving general satisfaction. None of the mysterious "drop shots" so often chronicled in late years were heard of on this occasion. The marking was good, there being very few shots challenged, and the exceptions proved more satisfactory financially to the association than to the challengers.

Lt.-Col. Mattice, B.M., of Montreal, was the chief executive officer, and the range officers were Major Radiger, Victoria Rifles, Montreal; Capt. Manley, Royal Grenadiers, Toronto; and Lieut. Winter, G.G.F.G., Ottawa. These discharged their duties in a manner eminently satisfactory, viewed from the standpoint of the executive; the competitors also were well satisfied with the manner in which they exercised their authority, except in the case of one range officer, whose unyielding adherence to the strict letter of the law wrought undeserved hardship in at least one instance where a more sympathetic nature would have overlooked an altogether unwitting and trivial breach of the rules through which not only the offenders themselves but their innocent associates on a regimental team were made to suffer the extreme penalty.

Tuesday, 7th August.

The competition opened with the Nursery match, seven shots at 400 yards, firing in which commenced promptly at 9 o'clock on this day. There were about fifty entries, of men who had never won an individual prize at a provincial or Dominion meeting. The score to take first prize was only one short of the 35 possible, and was made by Pte. Parke, of Quebec's crack, corps the 8th Royal Rifles, whose contingent it will be noticed distinguished themselves by the number of first prizes they captured at this meeting. The prize list was as follows:

\$15 Pte. Parke, 8th Rifles.....	34	\$4 Sergt.-Major Findlay, 54th.....	28
10 Bomb. Duffy, M.G.A.....	32	4 Pte. Lough, 43rd.....	27
7 Col.-Sgt. Ferguson, 1st P.W.R.	31	4 Pte. Ward, 43rd.....	27
6 Sergt. Heron, 43rd.....	30	4 Mr. T. C. Slade, Met. R. A.....	27
4 Lt. Cole, 42nd.....	29	4 Pte. Presley, 41st.....	27
4 Pte. Gooding, Guards.....	29	4 Pte. W. E. Walsh, 50th.....	27
4 Pte. D. Cameron, 6th.....	29	4 Pte. Dunson, 8th Royal Rifles...	27
4 Mr. C. S. Scott, Met. R. A ..	28		

The two prizes of \$12 and \$8 offered for association Nursery teams of four men each were taken by the G.G.F.G. with 97 points, and the 54th Battalion with 87. The team entered by the 43rd Battalion had scored 107 points, but one of the four, with 31 points to his credit, was found to have fired with a rifle whose trigger pulled less than six pounds, and his score was therefore disallowed.

The next match to be fired was the Association, open to all members. The ranges were 500 yards, with the Snider, and 600 yards, with the Martini rifle, seven shots at each. The average of the shooting was high, though no brilliant individual scores were made except by the top

man,—who was rewarded with a handsome album in addition to the cash prize.

\$25 Sgt. Hartley, 8th R.R.....	64	4 Pte. Hall, 79th.....	55
20 S-Sgt. Wynne, 5th R.S.....	60	4 Lt. R. J. Spearing, 53rd.....	55
15 S-Sgt. T. Mitchell, 10th R.G..	60	4 Pte. H. W. Edwards, 58th.....	55
10 Pte. J. Waters, 6th.....	58	4 Dr. G. Hutchinson, Met. R. A.	55
8 Lt. Cole, 42nd.....	58	4 Sgt. Dewfall, 8th R.R.....	54
5 Pte. G. Lavers, 6th.....	58	4 Sgt. H. Johnson, 85th.....	54
5 Sgt. Dowker, M.G.A.....	56	4 Sgt. A. S. Kimmerly 49th....	54
5 Capt. McMicking, 44th.....	56	4 Corpl. J. Riddle, 6th.....	54
5 S-Sgt. Jamieson, 43rd.....	56	4 Pte. McJanet, 43rd.....	54
5 Sgt. Clarke, 53rd.....	56	4 Pte. J. A. Armstrong, Guards.	53
5 Capt. Macdonald, R.L.....	56	4 Pte. Ward, 13th.....	53
5 Lt.-Col. Macpherson, Guards..	56	4 Capt. E. Waldo, R.L.....	53
5 Pte. A. Thompson 3rd Vics....	56	4 Corpl. E. Pratt, 6th.....	53
5 Sgt. Clarke, 5th R.S.....	55	4 Corpl. Marris, 13th.....	53
5 Pte. T. Scott, 6th.....	55	4 Capt. Jameson, 60th.....	52
4 Capt. Bell, 43rd.....	55	4 Pte. G. Thompson, 12th.....	52
4 S-Sgt. Margetts 13th.....	55	4 Pte. J. P. Nutting, Guards....	52
4 Capt. Lulham, M.G.A.....	55		

The prizes for association teams of five men each were closely contested for, especially the first four, as will be seen from the list which follows. The cup which goes with the first prize is a challenge trophy not to become the property of any association until won twice consecutively; and the Scots, the winners this year, have not yet achieved the double victory.

\$30 and cup, 5th Royal Scots....	263	\$12 6th Fusiliers.....	260
25 Sherbrooke Rifle Ass'n.....	262	10 8th Royals.....	248
18 Toronto Rifle Ass'n.....	260	5 G. G. F. G.....	246

The military matches—in two series, skirmishing and volley firing— took place in the afternoon, from 3.30 to about 5.15. Common sense conditions prevailed, the dress required being no more elaborate than that for the regular matches restricted to militiamen. Fourteen sections of five members each entered, and the firing was done in two lots of seven sections each. The first seven having fired the ten rounds allowed in the skirmishing match, were about to do their volley firing also, when it was discovered that certain of the teams had only brought with them enough ammunition for the skirmishing, thinking that as usual the next sections would be called upon to skirmish before there was any volley firing. They were therefore retired and the remaining seven ordered to the fore. These did their skirmishing first and immediately afterwards their volley firing; and next the first seven were called upon to fire their five volleys. The statistical officer at the butts was not informed of the change in the order of firing, and therefore credited the volleys of the second sections to fire to the first lot, and vice versa. Incorrect prize lists were therefore posted, and it was not until two days afterwards, on Thursday, that the mistake was discovered, and then by the merest accident. A new prize list was issued, and will be found below, together with that for the skirmishing, which was not affected by the blunder:

Skirmishing—Five men, ten rounds, between 500 and 200 yards:

\$30 43rd Batt., first team.....	106	\$20 G. G. F. G. second team.....	77
25 6th Fusiliers.....	80	15 5th Royal Scots.....	77

Volley Firing—Five men, five rounds each at 300 yards, kneeling:

\$20 8th Battalion.....	50	\$10 5th Royal Scots.....	41
15 G. G. F. G.....	47		

The so-called volley firing was anything but such; in fact the absence of reasonable pause between the commands made it next to impossible for the competitors to get their rifles lined upon the targets between the "present" and the "fire," the result being that the majority of the teams fired man by man just as each was ready. A few sections, trusting for reward according to the regulations of the match, did fire good volleys, having determined, hit or miss, to pull their triggers on the word of command. Had the officer in charge been capable of performing the duties which he had undertaken, or had he even followed to the best of his ability the rules which the official programme proclaimed were to govern the competition, the course taken by those few who obeyed his command to fire before they could reasonably be expected to be ready, and who thereby sacrificed their chances of making good hits, would have been found to be the best paying in the end. But the officer took upon himself to make new rules of his own. The programme said: "For each shot fired out of time, three points will be deducted from the score of that section." In many sections fully fifty per cent. of the shots were fired out of time, for the reasons stated above, and the deductions should in these cases have been between thirty and forty points. Most of the sections had at least one late shot in each volley, this meaning a deduction of fifteen points for the whole. But the officer in charge comes to the conclusion that where the volleys were bad he could not tell whether there were four, three, two or one shots fired out of time, and as he didn't know whether the number of points he should deduct in such instances was 12, 9, 6, or 3 per volley, he would simply call the volley bad, and deduct *one* point. Thus the official list of de-