

### The Militia Pastime.

The challenge recently issued by the Toronto Rifle Association through the MILITIA GAZETTE, has been accepted by Quebec, and a telegraphic match between these cities will take place shortly.

"I think," writes Grenade, from St. John, N.B., "city corps should practise with the Morris tube before going to the range, as the men would gain steadiness, and officers could spend an hour or so in the evenings imparting the necessary instruction, which can be done more easily than on the range. Experience has shown that men who have been through a course with the tubes shoot much better on their first visit to the ranges. As the imperial authorities grant tubes and ammunition to regular regiments, why cannot the Militia Department here purchase a few and thus improve and further an interest in shooting."

The Port Elgin and Owen Sound Rifle Association had a very interesting match last week, on the Port Elgin range; seven men each side, 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots, Snider rifles. Port Elgin won with the narrow majority of 10 points, scoring 561 against 551 for Owen Sound, the range totals being:—

Port Elgin.....	183	200	178	561
Owen Sound.....	192	207	152	551

The highest scorer on the two teams was Lieut. W. Mitchell, who contributed 88 for Port Elgin; then came D. J. Izard with 86 for the same team, and A. Campbell with a like total for the Sound.

A friendly rifle competition, nine men a side, took place on the Rideau range on Saturday afternoon last between No. 6 Co. of the 43rd Rifles and the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. Capt. Bell of the Rifles, and Capt. Gourdeau of the Dragoons, shot on the teams which they respectively commanded. The match was fired with Snider rifles, at 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots at each. It resulted in favour of the Rifles by 38 points, the range totals being as follows:—

43rd Rifles.....	182	181	147	510
P. L. D. G.....	197	162	113	472

The weekly aggregate practice of the 8th Royal Rifles Association, Saturday afternoon, 21st July, at the St. Joseph range, was well attended, upwards of twenty-five members being present. Taking into consideration a strong right wind and changeable light, the scoring was high, as the accompanying scores will show. Ranges, 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 rounds at each; Snider rifles and Quebec ammunition, issue of 1888:

Sergt. Goudie.....	29	29	27	85	Pte. Thomson.....	27	25	22	74
Col.-Sergt. Ross.....	28	30	25	83	Pte. Clark.....	25	27	21	73
Sergt. Fairbairn, 42nd Bn.	26	29	26	81	Pte. Morrett.....	26	22	23	71
Sergt. Dewfall.....	23	32	22	77	Sergt. Pugh, B Batt.....	28	24	19	71
Corp. Champion.....	30	26	19	75	Lieut.-Col. Miller.....	27	21	22	70
Sergt. Hartley.....	28	20	26	74	Pte. Brown.....	28	23	19	70

The Toronto Rifle Association's series of victories in telegraphic matches was interrupted last Saturday, when Bowmanville in the return match reversed the results of the previous week, defeating the Queen City by 7 points, the totals standing 657 to 650. On the 14th they had been 654 to 607 in favour of Toronto. The composition of the teams was the same on each occasion except that on Saturday last W. Macdonald shot for Toronto in place of A. D. Crooks. The weather on this occasion appears to have been satisfactory to both teams, as no complaints on that score have been heard. The following were the complete scores (Martini rifles, Queen's ranges, 7 shots):—

BOWMANVILLE.					TORONTO.				
J. Sando.....	29	31	29	89	Thos. Mitchell.....	31	30	30	91
J. B. Mitchel.....	29	30	27	86	Geo. Thompson.....	31	30	28	89
W. C. King.....	28	32	26	86	Wm. Harp.....	31	32	25	88
W. S. Russell.....	32	31	22	85	W. Macdonald.....	28	24	29	81
D. Beach.....	30	26	28	84	A. G. Ronan.....	22	27	30	79
Dr. McLaughlin.....	26	28	24	78	A. D. Cartwright.....	26	26	26	78
J. Curtis.....	28	29	18	75	R. McVittie.....	26	26	26	78
W. S. Young.....	28	25	21	74	G. M. Donnelly.....	26	21	19	66
Totals.....	230	232	195	657	Totals.....	221	216	213	650

The deciding match between these two associations will be fired on Saturday, 28th inst.

Variable wind and light made high scoring rather difficult at the weekly meet of the Ottawa Rifle Club on Saturday last. But the spoons were won with excellent totals—86 and 85 points respectively out of 100 possible—made by two veterans, Mr. N. Morrison and Major H. F. Perley, who, it will be noticed, led the field not only in the aggregate but at each range as well. Mr. J. R. Wynne, of Montreal, making a brief stay in Ottawa on business, joined in the practice of the local club, as he had with that of Quebec a week before, and was a good third with

82 points to his credit. The following were the scores of 50 and upwards made by the 21 competitors. Ranges, 500 and 600 yards; 10 shots each; Martini rifles:—

N. Morrison (dessert spoon).....	43	43	86	W. A. Jamieson.....	34	35	69
Maj. H. F. Perley (tea spoon).....	43	42	85	J. D. Taylor.....	38	31	69
J. R. Wynne.....	42	40	82	J. P. Nutting.....	40	29	69
A. Pink.....	37	40	77	Lt.-Col. J. P. Macpherson.....	40	24	64
T. Carroll.....	41	33	74	T. C. Boville.....	27	29	56
J. H. Ellis.....	40	33	73	J. D. Holbrook.....	32	21	53
F. W. Smith.....	36	35	71	M. Rolfe.....	28	24	52
R. H. Brown.....	37	34	71	W. E. Cooke.....	25	25	50
T. McJanet.....	37	33	70				

### Better Late than Never.

"A Member of the Q.O.C.H." having recently undertaken in a letter to the Montreal *Star*, to inform the riflemen and the public interested as to the causes of defects in Canadian ammunition of the past, he is taken sharply to task by another correspondent, signing himself "Fusilier," and whose letter gives evidence that this writer has some practical knowledge of the subject. "Fusilier" says: "In stating that the only fault to be found with the ammunition issued out about a year ago, is that it was too old, and consequently the powder had 'lost considerable of its strength,' he asserts what is not correct. No fault has been found with the powder served out a year ago, which came from Woolwich, nor had it lost so much of its strength as to condemn it. Else why do the riflemen of Canada pin their faith on mark IX even if it be 14 years old, and why is it that there is no objection made to the use of Martini-Henry ammunition of 1874, which is served out by the militia department on purchase? The fault was in the bullets. The Quebec ammunition was, we all know, as bad as it could possibly be, and from the time in 1885 when the commission proved and pointed out where the faults lay till now, it has taken the Superintendent of the Quebec factory and his staff three years to correct their errors, and turn out a good cartridge. It looks as if some pressure had been brought to bear on that celebrated "hedge," described so truly by Major Bond, which has burst a hole in it large enough to let a good bullet pass through. The 1888 ammunition is good, the weights of the charges, of the best of English rifle powder, are more regular than heretofore, and the variation in weight reduced from four to one grain. A badly shaped bullet had evidently been taken as a pattern, and this error has now been corrected, the operation having taken three years. There never was any reason why Quebec cartridges should not be equal to and better than the English make, and all these mistakes could have been corrected in six months, but for the reasons set forth by Major Bond, all Q.O.C.H.'s allegations to the contrary notwithstanding."

### Regimental Notes.

#### Dominion Artillery Competitions.

On the 5th July the Newcastle Field Battery had their annual target practice, the firing taking place at Chatham, N.B. The scores for the D. A. A. battery competition were: Preliminary, 167; final, 144; total, 311. In the officers' competition Capt. Lawlor scored 16; Lieut. Davidson, 10; Lieut. Domville, 6; and Lieut.-Col. Call, 4. The average time of the driving competition was 3m. 0 1-5s.

The Woodstock, N.B., battery fired at that place on the 13th July, scoring in the preliminary 152; final, 155; total, 307. In the officers' match Capt. Emory placed 10 points to his credit, and Major Dibblee 9. The average time occupied in the driving competition was 3m. 2 1-4s.

#### St. John, N. B.

Drills are progressing here as usual and all corps in the city are showing the benefits of their training. The Artillery have commenced their gun drill and blank firing; the Fusiliers have one battalion drill a week, and the different companies show good attendance rolls. Target practice will be commenced on the 30th inst., and officers commanding companies have been instructed to use extra diligence and care this year in carrying out this important branch of the drill.

The 62nd had a full dress parade on Friday evening, when the attendance was good despite a wet night, and the movements steady. The corps was practised in sending out an advanced guard, and will probably put the information imparted into practical shape some evening during a route march.

The Major-General commanding passed through St. John a day or two ago, having come from Fredericton by boat, and expressed himself delighted with the scenery on the St. John river.

Major Irwin, of the 26th, paid a short visit to the city and made some friends among his bluenose militia brethren.

I saw a catalogue of medals lately, for sale by an English firm, in which the North-West (Canada), medal was quoted at £1 10s., and Egyptian medals at from 11s. to 15s.; do the Canadians who won the medal prize more what they have got than do the British soldiers entitled to wear the Egyptian decoration?

GRENADA.