

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—The marksmen of New Brunswick desire to know how the "Wimbledon Team" were selected this year. It appears that Ontario and Quebec have represented the whole Dominion, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have been ignored. Take the average shooting of the Teams that have gone to Wimbledon and you will find New Brunswick far ahead of any other Province. When the marksmen were elected by competitive shooting, New Brunswick always placed four on the Team. Our marksmen were practicing all spring in anticipation of a match, and have been greatly disappointed by the way they were treated.

MARKSMAN.

Mount Fordham, July 15th, 1874.

In reference to the above we have only to say that, the Secretary of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, Lieut. Col. STUART, sent to the President of each Provincial Rifle Association throughout the Dominion a Circular, embodying the Resolutions passed at the last annual meeting, which we here transcribe:—

RESOLUTION No. 1.—That the Presidents of the Provincial Rifle Associations be requested to send in each, a list of names to the Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, from which the selection of 20 marksmen to represent the Dominion Rifle Association at Wimbledon, next July, is to be made. The list to be sent in not later than the 24th day of May next, to contain the names, distances, dates, and places of matches, with scores made in 1873; also rank, occupation, and status of each competitor, and his assent to go to Wimbledon if selected. The list to be signed by the Secretary of each Provincial Association, and countersigned by the President. Said list to contain not more than 18 names from each Province.

RESOLUTION No. 2.—That for the present year one member for the Wimbledon Team shall be selected from British Columbia, and one from Manitoba, and only eighteen from the remaining Provinces. The selection from British Columbia and Manitoba to be made upon the recommendation of the Provincial Associations of those Provinces.

RESOLUTION No. 3 FOR SELECTION OF WIMBLEDON TEAM NEXT YEAR.—Unanimously Resolved, that the Presidents of the Provincial Rifle Associations be requested to arrange for a competition match of three days, for the selection of marksmen from whom the twenty to be sent to Wimbledon are to be chosen, and that the Secretary of each Provincial Rifle Association sends to the Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa, the names of eighteen competitors with their scores made at Wimbledon ranges and targets, seven shots without sighting shots, each day, at each range. The list to be accompanied by a Certificate from the President of the Provincial Rifle Association, and to contain in addition to the names and scores, the date of meeting, rank, occupation and status of each, with the assent of each competitor, that if selected he will be ready to go on the date to be named.

The List to be sent to the Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association not later than the 31st December.

In accordance with Resolution No. 1 the President of the New Brunswick Rifle Association was requested to send in to the Secretary, by the 24th of May last, the names of eighteen of the best shots in New Brunswick but only ten names were returned and out of these two only were found eligible, namely, Captain ARNOLD and Corporal PAXEN.

OUR RECRUITING MAKESHIFTS—FALLACIES.

The absolute failure to maintain the regular army from the want of recruits, notwithstanding the repeated attempts of the War Office to deny or gloss it over, is again forcing itself upon our military authorities and on parliament. The enormous increase which has taken place in the standing armies of Europe within the last fifteen years, renders it necessary that, along with our spinning and mining, we should provide some of our population to keep watch and ward, while others build up the national fortunes. It is unwise, and far from economical, to fold our arms and sneer at the "trade of war." As well discarded our policemen, and throw our most sacred treasures open, without bolt or bar, to the tender mercies of the scoundrel and the plunderer. Nations have ever risen to eminence and maintained their position in proportion to the power and courage they had to win and protect their conquests, whether in the stricken field of war or industry. The world has not changed a whit in character through all the ages of blood and battle and the cycles of commercial activity that have dawned and passed away among the nations. The sling and stone may have given way to the bow and arrow, and these again may have become playthings in the presence of modern rifles and 80 ton guns, but the spirit that directs the necessity for such alternatives has only become intensified and enlarged by the advancement of science and the progress of mankind in material comforts. We fear—in fact, we may as well say, we know—that our military impotency, so far as it exists, is due to a set of puling humanitarians, who, for upwards of a generation, have swarmed among us, and who dreamed dreams of ease and comfort without struggle, and wealth without the conquest of hard labour, and all to be maintained and enjoyed without the fear of deprivation, or put in jeopardy by the greedy eye of covetousness. War was to cease—but, strange to say, as to the army was left despised, hated, and neglected by these goody goodists, they burdened the people with hosts of constables, as if they had discovered that the evil spirit of nations had taken refuge among the civic body politic. Mechanics' institutions were to reform the world, and the abstruseness of newspaper studies was to usher in the millennium. The arts of production were elevated as emanating from the divine standard, and the science of making money was held to be the first and all-absorbing worship fit for the deity. Of course almsgiving was enjoined in the way of taxes, and poor rates as the sublimest piety, while the great end of man—and eke of women too—was to vote for members of parliament. The world rolled on, and the earth-quakes of war rumbled in far-off regions, and the dream grew into a nightmare of trades' unions and miners' strikes, and the servant pitted against master, and masters howling at the ingratitude of servants. The noble spirit of self sacrifice—or performance of duty even at risk and loss—which had animated preceding generations, produced those heroic and chivalric deeds which glorify the history of our race, was laughed to scorn as weakness, and banished from among us as the unprofitable work of fools. No wonder that men would not serve their country but for a bribe; but it

has actually taken more than one generation to emascuate our people, for even yet there is among us a martial and energetic spirit which only requires to be let loose in the proper direction to save all still. It is not, however, to be expected that our youth, after such teachings, will enter the list of our national defenders for thirteenthence a day, when a collier's boy may drink champagne, and defy the wishes of the nation for warmth and heat. The makers of personal wealth should not forget that, while they increase their own store, those who labour with and for them have a fair right to a due share; and if that claim is not satisfied, it will be demanded by strikes and other social and industrial dislocations. The immediate workman has managed to make himself heard and our soldiers can only do so by ceasing to be—but the pressure of the scarcity of military labour can only be felt when our regiments cease to be maintained, and young men turn away, in the spirit of the age, to more profitable sources of employment. Our enlistment system is radically defective, take it as you may and it may now be a very difficult thing to keep up a sufficient military force for the emergencies of war under the old system. We hold that, whether the army is supplied by compulsory service or by our present nondescript plan of enlistment, it matters little in the end to the nation at large in a monetary point of view. One hundred thousand men's labour in the army is abstracted from the ranks of industry, whether by enforcement or enlistment, and the value of that labour is exactly the same, by whatever means it is acquired; so that all the raving about the loss to industry and so forth is only the purest bomb. We firmly believe that we are approaching a new era of military service in this country, apart from that of our present system. The question has been moving Parliament, and Lord Sandhurst, on Monday week, referred to the falling off in the obtaining of proper recruits, and moved for the returns on the subject, which were granted. The sages of the Military Departments have turned eager looks to the Militia to help them out of their difficulty, and even have tried to mesmerise them into the Army by various incantations. All, however, will not do; and the only result has been to increase the evil, by actually placing the Militia service in the recruiting field as an opposition to the Army. Make the Militia what it constitutionally at the moment is—a service of the people and from the people—retain the Volunteer force on its present constitutional basis, and the Militia will become what our military statesmen have failed otherwise to make it—a freer to the Army, and that too of a better class than they now obtain, while the expense to the nation, either in coin or the withdrawal of men from industry, will not be one whit increased. A more manly and courageous spirit will be developed among our whole population; and by a wholesome acquaintance with military discipline and system in their youth, our population will become as loyal, and true, and patriotic, as ever was exemplified by this or any other nation of modern or of ancient times. We have again and again referred to this question of recruiting, and the persistence of the military authorities in jumping from plan to plan, and regulation to regulation, to fill the ranks of the Army with men or boys, has ever been to us a proof that every attempt to temporise with a question of such moment will only lead to graver aspects.—*The Volunteer News*, June 10th.