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MISCELLANEOUS.

How Toronto Discourages her Volunteers.

The interests of volunteering in Toronto still suffer by the delay in proceeding with the long expected new drill hall. The public interests have found an unappreciated private champion who is contesting, on a triviality, the validity of the by-law providing money for the purchase of a site, and recently adopted by a popular vote. It is difficult to see what the contestant hopes to gain as an offset to the heavy expenses of conducting his almost hopeless suit, now on appeal from the judgment of Mr. Justice Armour, who disallowed that portion of the by-law providing for the purchase of certain street areas notice of the expropriation of which had not been given, but refused to disallow the by-law as a whole. As the city council have power to at any time expropriate the streets in question, pressure should be brought to bear to have this done, thus removing any further pretext for continuing the suit, pending the settlement of which operations cannot be commenced. It has been hinted in some quarters that if the volunteers would induce the Ontario Rifle Association to abandon the Garrison Common to the Exhibition Association, the difficulty about the drill site would speedily be terminated, but directors of the exhibition association indignantly deny that they are involved in the suit as this hint would imply.

An Unfair Letter Answered.

In a letter appearing in our correspondence columns this week the P. Q. R. A. Statistical Officer defends or apologises for the peculiarities of the Executive of the recent annual matches, and whose actions were the subject of criticism in this paper. The letter contains the assurance that "the Executive Officer is probably less biassed in his judgment than those interested"; this we never questioned, but biassed or unbiassed it was his business to act in accordance with the rules laid down for his instruction.

We would return to our correspondent, as having more need of it, his injunction "be sure you are right, then go ahead." Nothing has appeared in the MILITIA GAZETTE to warrant the following paragraph, extracted from his communication:

"You do not seem to be quite consistent in complaining that the letter of the law was carried out on late comers and light triggers. * * There is no excuse for a trigger 1½ pounds under pull, especially on a team."

Now our only complaint about the imposition of penalties was as follows:

"The competitors also were well satisfied with the manner in which

the range officer, exercised their authority, except in the case of one, 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."

Reference was here made to the ruling out of two members of the Eighth Royal Rifles for being a few minutes late in making their appearance at the firing point. No time was lost, as two others of the same corps voluntarily shot in the time of their absent comrades. The men whose proper turn it was to go on arrived before their substitutes had fired many shots, and requested to be allowed to shoot next. The range officer was aware that by ruling them out he destroyed their team's chances; yet he absolutely refused to consider their application. That was plainly the case to which we referred; and we do not see how any one with our correspondent's acquaintance with the acts would construe our remarks—written in the plural, about two offenders—into a complaint about the disallowance of the score of one man, a member of another team, whose trigger was found to be light.

We can, however, readily understand why an attempt should be made to thus distort our meaning. The competitor with the light trigger was an Ottawa man; and whatever force may now attach to our criticism would entirely disappear could it be shown to be merely a selfish complaint about the just punishment of a fellow townsman.

As this insinuation has been put into writing, it has doubtless obtained wide circulation verbally. We are therefore obliged to our correspondent for the opportunity he has given us to set the facts of the case clearly before such of our readers as may have been inclined to believe the distorted version. We hope, however, that the number of such is few. We have at least tried to deserve a better opinion. We have every confidence, not only that our motives will be unquestioned by the great majority of the competitors at the P. Q. R. A. matches, but that they entirely concur with us in every criticism we have made concerning the conduct of the recent prize meeting.

Infantry Tactics.

An important memorandum upon the formation of Infantry for attack purposes, consequent upon the greater range and power of modern artillery and musketry fire, has been issued by Sir Archibald Alison for the guidance of the troops at Aldershot. The general principle lays down that troops allotted for the attack will, when of sufficient strength, be divided into first, second, and third lines, and proceeds:—

"The first line, sub-divided into firing line, supports, and reserves, engages the enemy, and is intended eventually to establish itself within charging distance of his position.

"The duties of the firing line are to keep up a well-directed fire upon the enemy from the moment such fire becomes effective, to push forward as near his position as possible, and thence to deliver such a