

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.

DEAR SIR:—Allow me to correct a typographical error in my letter on page 646 of yesterday's REVIEW. I am made to say "the Council of the Province of Ontario at a very full meeting supported my opinion." In place of the word *Ontario* read *Quebec*.

I am, your obd't. servant,

JAS. ESDAILE.

Secy. Province of Quebec R.A.

Montreal, 11th Oct.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—Your unqualified remarks regarding the decision of the Ontario Rifle Association, together with the very uncalled for interference of Capt. Esdaile, the Secretary of the Quebec Association, leads me to seek a space in your columns for the purpose of justifying that decision by stating the grounds upon which it was made.

A reference to our published prize list will show you that the Battalion Match was to be competed for by ten officers non-commissioned officers or men from any Battalion, Brig de Squadron or Field Battery of Volunteer Militia in Ontario." Under these conditions the 2nd Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Brigade competed, and by obtaining the highest score had claim to the prize. A protest was entered alleging that they were not an Ontario Battalion, and although the Council were desirous of awarding the prize to the best shots, as they had proved themselves to be, they were reluctantly compelled to rule that they were not an Ontario Battalion, being recorded in the Active Militia List for 1870, as the "2nd Battalion Rifle, Montreal," and moreover, as a Quebec Battalion, having won the first prize in the Battalion Match at the P.Q.R.A. matches in 1870. To all impartial minds the fact must be self-evident that the Battalion cannot be, at one and the same time, a Quebec and an Ontario Battalion; and, although we rank the individual companies resident in Ontario as Ontario Volunteers, it was impossible to overlook the fact of the headquarters of the Battalion being in Montreal, and that the Challenge Cup intended solely for Ontario riflemen could not be allowed to go out of the Province. It was, therefore, the manifest duty of the Council to make the decision that they did, although they were most desirous to show to Capt. Bell and Crowther the leaders of the team, that the reasons were purely technical. Upon these grounds, certainly, these gentlemen cannot complain. Had their course been different the Council would doubtless have given an extra money prize hoping in some measure to have consoled them in their honorable defeat. But no doubt their feelings of disappointment blinded them to the impartial justice of the decision, hence the newspaper correspon-

dence, into which they have brought as their champion an illogical and blind partizan. We are glad as an Association to be assured that our sister Association in Quebec is in a prosperous and healthy condition; that "all its ways are pleasantness, and all its paths are peace," but as we have identical interests and the same great object in view, we decline to be made the subject of comparisons that might possibly lead to an unfriendly conclusion. Consequently the decisions of the Quebec Association, however much we may respect them, cannot prove a guide in our counsels, nor do we feel greatly chagrined that the Secretary considers we have stultified ourselves. We are proud to hold Capt. Bell as an Ontario Volunteer, and proud to consider the part of the Grand Trunk organization resident in Ontario as Ontario Volunteers; but we cannot be held responsible when that peculiar organization constitutes a majority of Ontario companies into a Quebec Battalion.

Capt. Esdaile states, by what I understand to be a clerical error, "that the Council of the Province of Ontario Rifle Association, at a very full meeting, supported my opinion." He means, doubtless the Council of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, who are happy in having such unimpeachable opinions to support. He also refers to the paragraph stating that the Grand Trunk men were satisfied with the ruling of the Council. I have never seen such a statement in the *Globe*, but will vouch for the correctness of the paragraph, word for word, which he so unfairly quotes in his letter, in order to show how unpleasantly matters are managed at the Matches of the Ontario Rifle Association.

To conclude this somewhat lengthy reply I would say that the earnest endeavour of the Ontario Rifle Association is to act with honesty and impartiality to all, and if, through lack of experience or want of knowledge, we fail in aught, we trust to the good feeling of our friends in Ontario, with whom and for whom we work, to excuse our errors and condone our faults, but to the opinions of those who unjustifiably interfere with that which does not concern them, we are thoroughly indifferent.

Trusting you will see grounds to reverse your former harsh and one sided judgment,

I am, Sir,

Your obd't. servant,

THOS. C. SCOBLE, Major,

Secretary Ontario R.A.

[In justice to Major Scoble, Secretary Ontario Rifle Association, we insert his communication; but notwithstanding the plausibility of his reasoning we still contend the Council of the Ontario Rifle Association did wrong. If they were aware that the Grand Trunk Battalion belonged to the Province of Quebec, why did they allow them to enter for the Battalion Match? It was not the proper time to object when they had fairly won the prize. This is our opinion and we

adhere to it, and maintain that the Council did them a grievous injury in not giving them the cup.—Ed. Vol. Rev.]

FROM LEAMINGTON.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The infantry company here went into camp for the annual drill for 1870-71, Monday morning, August 30th. As usual the company made a splendid muster, turning out 54 non-commissioned officers and men, and three officers, under the command of Capt. J. R. Wilkinson. Tents were pitched at an early hour on the fair grounds adjoining the village after which the company was paraded and inspected in full marching order; standing orders read and the men told off in squads under the different non-commissioned officers to the several tents, guards mounted and orderlies told off, and parades established. Corp. Joseph Ley took charge of the cooking department to the satisfaction of all throughout the stay in camp. The general routine of camp life was rigidly exacted by the commanding officer, Captain J. R. Wilkinson, and cheerfully complied with by all. The weather was all that could be desired, just enough rain to lay the dust and cool the air. The company drilled six hours each day (no child's play I assure you) and made rapid progress under instructor Capt. Wilkinson. Indeed the corps is splendidly drilled; the company movements, skirmishing, bayonet drill, manual and platoon exercises were done like clockwork. The company fired 15 rounds of target practice at 200, 400 and 500 yards, and made a fine average score. Some \$30 in prizes were presented for competition by the friends of the company. Lance Corporal John Ley won the first prize, Pte. P. Hillman, second; James Gahan, third; W. Gahan, fourth; Sgt. J. Davidson, fifth; Corp. S. Fox, sixth; Privates J. Mills, T. Wilkinson, E. Shaw, and S. Scratch also won prizes. The company were well pleased with the prizes so kindly presented by the citizens of Leamington.

On Wednesday the company was invited to a dinner and pic-nic, given by the different Sabbath schools of Leamington and vicinity. A good time was enjoyed; the pic-nic was held in Mr. P. Conover's grove, overlooking the beautiful waters of Lake Erie. After the dinner and speeches, which were excellent indeed, for the amusement of the people and scholars, the company went through a sham fight with blank cartridge. Sgt. Major C. Ley was told off with a force to represent the enemy; he took post as directed in a point of woods opposite an open field. The company under the command of the Captain, advanced in skirmishing order across the open field when the enemy opened fire on them from under cover the main line opened fire in reply and a sharp skirmish ensued, resulting in the enemy being dislodged from their position, when they executed a flank movement turn-