

in each year, shows for the Queen's 2,206 in 1890 against 2,237 in 1889; and for the St. George's 2,105 against 2,160. It is thought that the diminution will be made up when the later entries are received. A team is expected this year from the Cape of Good Hope, which colony has not hitherto been represented at the N. R. A. meetings.

Canadians Invited to Creedmoor.

It appears probable that Canada will be represented at the United States National Rifle Association prize meeting at Creedmoor this year. Major John Hood, of the 5th Royal Scots, Montreal, has interested himself in the project, and as a result of correspondence between him and Capt. John S. Shepherd, the secretary, that officer suggested to the directors of the National association that the use of the Martini-Henry rifle be permitted in the competitions restricted to military rifles. The suggestion was adopted, and now Canadian competitors will be able to take part using their favourite weapon. The meeting, which lasts five days, will be held the week following the matches of the Dominion association, and will commence on Tuesday, 9th September. A strong, well-practiced team ought to be secured without difficulty from the four hundred marksmen who will gather at the Dominion meeting. The trip would be a pleasant one, quite an event in the shooting season, and as Capt. Shepherd, who has secured the concessions making the trip possible, will be the chief executive officer, it may be taken for granted that the Canadians visiting Creedmoor will be made as comfortable as it is in the power of the association to make them.

As to the competitions, while the Canadians will no doubt enter them feeling confident that they have in their Martinis weapons equal to the best, they will at the same time be handicapped in using their plain sights against the improved devices adopted for the United States service weapons, and also in the matter of position, for a great part of the shooting will be at 200 yards, and with the Americans the standing position is almost invariably used at that range, where our riflemen are accustomed to kneel.

The match upon which interest would centre would be the team competition for the beautiful trophy, valued at \$3,000, presented by Hon. Henry Hilton of New York, to be shot for annually under the auspices of the National association, and to be held for the year by the head of the organization winning it. These competitions have been going on since 1878, with varying fortunes until 1886, when the Massachusetts team secured the trophy for the first time, and every year since a team from that State has repeated the victory. The teams consist of twelve members, representing respectively: 1. The U. S. Army (one team from the Atlantic, one from the Pacific, and one from the Missouri Division); the U. S. Navy; the National Guard (one team from each State or Territory). 2. The Regular Army, the Militia, the Volunteers or the Navy (one team from each) of England, Ireland, Scotland, the Dominion of Canada, or any other country. The distances are 200, 500 and 600 yards, seven rounds at each; standing at 200 yards, any position at other ranges. In this competition the use of any officially adopted military rifle is and has been permitted. Besides the trophy the winning team receive a medal for each member.

Another match in which any military rifle is permitted is the "Long Range Military Match," fifteen shots at 800 and 900 yards, any position. It is open to all comers. There are six prizes, running from \$15 to \$5.

Five other rifle competitions are open to Canadians. In the Judd match, seven shots at 200 yards, standing; there are twenty-five cash prizes, from \$25 to \$5. In the Tiffany, five shots at 200 yards, standing (unlimited entries, the aggregate of three scores to count), there are thirty-one cash prizes, from \$50 to \$5. In the Governor's Match, seven shots at 500 yards, any position (the aggregate of three scores to count), there are twenty-four prizes, from \$20 to \$5. In the All Comers', five shots at 200 and 500 yards (standing at 200, prone at 500), there are twenty-six prizes, from \$25 to \$5. In the Steward Match, open every day (200 yards, 5 shots), the position may be sitting, kneeling or standing; the entries are unlimited, and the prizes will be won on the aggregate of three scores. Besides these rifle matches there is an open Revolver match, five shots at 30 yards on the American Standard target, reduced for 100 yards. The aggregate of three scores will count for the prizes, of which there will be ten, from \$10 to \$5.

The dimensions of the rifle targets used at Creedmoor are:—1st

class, at distances over 600 yards, 6 x 12 feet: bull's-eye 36 inches diameter, centre 54 inches diameter, inner 6 feet square, outer remainder of target. 2nd class, at distances over 300 and up to 600 yards, 6 feet square: bull's-eye 22 inches diameter, centre 38 inches diameter, inner 54 inches diameter, outer remainder of target. 3rd class, at distances up to 300 yards, 6 x 4 feet: bull's-eye 8 inches diameter, centre 26 inches diameter, inner 46 inches diameter, outer remainder of target. The bull's-eye counts 5, centre 4, inner 3, and outer 2.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE CRITICS CRITICISED.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The C. M. R. L. has greatly increased the interest in rifle shooting throughout the Dominion and will bring to the front many shots who, without its stimulus, would probably never have been other than ordinary, or perhaps no shots at all. Too much cannot be said in favour of the League and a large piece of credit must be given to its indefatigable yet unassuming secretary. Like all other good things the League had its detractors, for instance. George A. McM., who prophesied its complete failure before it was fairly started. Yet we find him with his team wrestling like the rest of us for the honours. I hope his team was entered before the free ammunition notice was sent out. Then came "Mark IV." with his insulting letter about B Battery. Of course, he said he did not wish to insinuate anything dishonourable, but he would like to know if the regular markers were on duty that day; he directly insinuated that B Battery couldn't do such shooting. Then followed "G." (Hamilton) with an array of statistics to prove that the Essex Centre team could not make the score they claimed. I was glad to see that maligned team fling the gauntlet in his face, and hope he has sand enough in his make-up and has sufficient influence to accept the challenge for his team. Then we will see whether Essex Centre or "G.s" famous team is the strongest. There have been other letters, such as that of "Scotland for ever," which is evidently actuated by personal feelings, and is aimed at some poor unfortunate competitor. Such letters are unworthy of a place in the columns of the GAZETTE. Why can't competitors say a favourable word occasionally? Is the League not worthy of our commendation? Must the bilious, dyspeptic and envious be the only ones to speak? Let the friends of the League speak a word of praise, it is worthy of it.

A FRIEND OF THE LEAGUE.

Toronto, 17th June, 1890.

A PROTEST FROM MANITOBA.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In your issue of 5th June you call attention to the annual drills ordered throughout the Dominion. You will no doubt be surprised to learn that District No. 10 (of this great and most important portion of Canada) is allowed to drill only some 550 men. This is a farce—and an insult to those in the force here. As we were the first in service in 1885 and raised two (2) *special* corps for the defence of our country, this seems queer treatment for such loyalty. If all the force were allowed to drill it would not be large, and would put the men on the footing they deserve. Yet the way things are now, it looks as if it were desired to crush out the force in this district.

We have as follows: 3 Battalionis, officers and men, 781. 1 Troop Cavalry, 45. Artillery, 81—about 900 officers and men, and *all* of these have seen service or at least belong to corps which were out in 1885. Officers of corps not allowed to drill are compelled to purchase their uniforms at a cost from \$275 up, and have no use for them, as company parades can be attended in undress. Yet a full dress is compulsory, or they must resign from the service. This sort of treatment will not increase the votes here at the next general election, and does not tend to keep the force in any sort of standing. I often wonder where the necessity comes in for a D. A. G. and staff if the drill of this district is to be kept down as it is now, and has been since 1886. As it is now, every cent of the drill money is expended on corps which have much difficulty in getting the *men* to remain in the ranks, if parades of late speak. *Boys* are common in some of the corps and the worst is, should a call for active service be made, some corps would have considerable recruiting to do. Officers from the east have noticed this and it is time that such a farce as allowing any under size to join were stopped. Seeing, as I have, the "Queen's Own" on church parade 500 strong, and seeing our *once* crack corps here out 125, and small in size at that, makes one feel sorry that the force is allowed to drop in this way. These things all tell against the force here and do not tend to keep the defenders of our soil in the respect which should be given those who have the welfare of the force at heart.

Brandon, 10th June, 1890.

FENIAN RAID AND 1885.