

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Topics of the Week.

The secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, Lieut.-Colonel Bacon, would like those secretaries of affiliated associations who have not already done so to lose no time in forwarding to him the names of winners of D. R. A. medals for this year.

Captain Henry Streatfeild, Grenadier Guards, who vacated the appointment of Military Secretary to the Marquis of Lansdowne on his lordship's leaving Canada, will be restored to the army establishment in the vacancy created by the seconding of Captain the Hon. C. R. W. Colville as Military Secretary to Lord Stanley. Captain Streatfeild will be re-seconded when he accompanies the Marquis of Lansdowne to India.

A mistake occurred in our report of the Ontario Provincial rifle meeting which we desire to correct now. This was in the statement of the winners of the Governor-General's medals. Our report made Lieut. Conboy, 20th Bn. and Pte. Sutherland, Guards, with 161 points, tie for first and second place respectively; whereas Staff-Sergt. Alex. Wilson, 33rd Bn., was first with 163 points, taking His Excellency's silver medal; and the second prize, the bronze medal, went to Lieut. Conboy.

The artillery competition at the Island of Orleans has ended. No. 3 Battery Halifax G.A., tops the firing score with a total of 222 points, and takes the Quebec Merchants' Cup, worth \$200; No. 1 Levis comes next, with a total of 204 points; No. 4 New Brunswick stands third, with a total of 183, followed closely by No. 1 New Brunswick, with 182; No. 2 Quebec takes next rank, with 179; and No. 1 Prince Edward and the Digby detachment are ties, with 169 each. We hope to be able to print next week the complete scores of the competing detachments.

A good deal has appeared in the papers about the duty which Lieut. H. C. Chamberlin, 43rd Bn., had to pay on a cup he won this year at Wimbledon, but another case of the same kind has not yet been brought to public attention. This is that of another member of the team, Staff-Sergt. Alex. Wilson, of the 33rd Bn., who won the handsome cup presented by the London Corporation for competition by the Canadian twenty. He had to pay \$30.60 duty upon the trophy when he brought it into this country. It has been stated that these duties are likely to be remitted when the Minister of Customs returns home and has the matter submitted to him. It is to be hoped that this will indeed be done, for it looks a small piece of business to tax a man for the skill at arms he has shown while representing his country abroad.

Our present good fortune in the matter of the excellence of our Snider ammunition, has attracted some attention in the mother country, as witness the following from the *Volunteer Record*: "The Canadians seem to be greatly in advance of us in the art of manufacturing small-arm ammunition; the riflemen of that dependency being particularly fortunate in the 1888 issue, a "make" with which most satisfactory results are being obtained. It quite makes an old country shootist's mouth water to hear that an examination of several packages made at Ottawa has shown that there is not more than one grain variation in the powder charge, whilst four or five grains were allowed in the English cartridges, as demonstrated by the experiments made by an expert two or three years ago."

The *United Service Gazette* of the 1st instant states that rumours are current in Volunteer circles to the effect that the "Duke" has given his sanction to the next annual meeting of the National Rifle Association being held on Wimbledon Common. This on the condition that the new ground for the 1890 meeting be chosen and taken in hand as early as possible. The paper thus comments on the rumour: "We are somewhat sceptical as to the truth of the report. We know His Royal Highness too well."

President Carnot, before his late journey to Upper Savoy, officially inspected the military school of St. Cyr, and the pupils, according to his request, were directed to test the rapidity of fire between the modified Gras and the regulation Lebel rifles. In the space of 30 seconds the competitors provided with the new pattern firearm had discharged 150 cartridges more than the Gras section, both the parties numbering 50 barrels each. With the magazines in action for continued fire, it was found that the Lebel could deliver double the number of shots to the Gras for an equal lapse of time. The whole of the German army is now armed with the magazine rifle, and commentators have observed that the advent of some marked advance in war equipment in the German army has always been followed by war.

M. de Freycinet, the French War Minister, has just taken a step from which several of his predecessors recoiled. He has issued a circular to the commanders of the different Army Corps announcing his determination to place at once on the Retired List all the officers who may solicit leave for the purpose of shirking the fatigues of the manœuvres. But this is not all: commanders of Army Corps are further requested to note down the names of officers who, in their opinion, would not be sufficiently strong to serve in a campaign. This rule applies not only to the manœuvres, but, in a general way, to other periods of the year; so, in future, whenever an officer strikes the commander of an Army Corps as being "out of form," the fact will be jotted down and reported to the War Office, and he will be pensioned off.

His Canadian acquaintances will be interested in reading the *Broad Arrow's* contribution to the volume of criticism of the recent promotion of Lord Melgund to the post of a volunteer infantry brigadier: "There