

The Council report of last year concluded with a reference to the great scarcity of reliable Snider Rifles among the Militia Corps of the Province, and directed attention to the fact that new steel barrels, in small quantities, could be obtained by Commanding Officers on application to return into store an equal number of old rifles. With the view of promoting such applications, your Council, at its special meeting in May, directed the Secretary to write to each Commanding Officer in the Province, urging him to act in the way suggested. Letters were immediately sent by the Secretary, and it is within the knowledge of the Council that at least four Commanding Officers applied for a small exchange issue, but in no instance has a favorable answer been received.

The Council feels very strongly that the matter should not be allowed to rest here, believing, as it does, that there is a supply of these new rifles in Militia stores, and that they are being issued to other Corps in Canada.

It is admittedly a fact that only here and there in the Company armories of this district is there a stray rifle, the accuracy of which has not been greatly impaired by long usage and exposure, and it is a very gloomy outlook for this Association and for rifle-shooting in this Province if the necessary supply of "shooting" rifles is not at once, and from time to time, to be renewed.

As the supply now stands, the Council fears that it is an idle hope to expect any increase in the number of competitors, either at the County or Provincial Matches, for to place a defective rifle in the hands of an eager beginner is sure in the end to discourage him from continuing. If there is any action which this Association can take to aid in securing the necessary issue of new Sniders, that action should be the first duty of the incoming Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed on behalf of the Council,

JOHN H. PARKS, MAJOR,
President.

J. TWINING HARTT, CAPTAIN,
Secretary.

October 5th, 1892.