

HALIFAX, N.S., 30th Aug., 1876.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir,—I received today a memorandum or circular issued on the 19th instant, by the Executive Committee of the Dominion Rifle Association, with reference to a resolution of the Council of the Provincial Rifle Association of Nova Scotia, and as it contains some statements in relation to myself and the circumstances attending the last annual match at Ottawa, calculated to convey erroneous impressions to those not acquainted with what actually did happen, you will, I trust, permit me to present to the notice of the gentlemen of Canada, through the columns of your paper, a correct statement in relation thereto.

In September 1875 I went in command of a team sent by the Provincial Rifle Association of Nova Scotia to attend the annual competition of the Dominion Rifle Association, and fire in all the matches except the Wimbledon match, the Nova Scotia Association being strongly opposed to the selection of that team by a match at Ottawa, and disapproving entirely of the terms and conditions of that particular match, as published in the prize list.

As soon as I arrived at Ottawa I informed all the members of the Council of the D. R. A. who spoke to me on the subject, that the team I commanded would not fire in the Wimbledon match, and gave the reasons: and I made the same statement openly in the presence of the majority of the officers attending the meeting.

This gave rise to a good deal of discussion among the members of the Council and the competitors, as to the mode of selecting the Wimbledon team in future, and one officer from Ontario, who was a prominent member of the Executive Committee of the Council, stated publicly that although he had been in favor of holding the match at Ottawa for the selection of the team, and believed it to be theoretically the proper method, he was now satisfied that it was not practically the best or fairest mode of selection, on account of the expense incurred and distance to be travelled by the competitors from the Lower Provinces.

This appeared to be the prevailing impression, and although I heard a good many opinions on the subject from members of Council and others interested in the matches, from all parts of Canada I heard but one dissenting voice.

As regards the changes in the Programme of last year, one would suppose from reading the memorandum of the Committee that none of any consequence were made, but the facts are as follows, and can be substantiated if necessary.

During the first week of the competition I was day after day repeatedly urged by members of Council and others to allow the Nova Scotia competitors to fire in the Wimbledon match, which I refused: but on Friday as I was about making arrangement to

leave Ottawa, a member of the Council of the D. R. A. came to me and stated that as a number of competitors from Nova Scotia had come to Ottawa the Executive Committee were anxious that they should fire in the Wimbledon match, and were prepared, if possible, to alter the regulations of that match to suit the views of the Nova Scotia Association: and he asked in what alterations were required.

I informed him that the Dominion Association must give up the nomination of five competitors in the first stage, and that in lieu of them the Ontario Association should nominate two additional men and the three other Associations one additional man each, and that there should be no nomination of fifteen additional competitors in the second stage but that that competition should be confined to the thirty-five men who made the highest scores in the first stage. He then left me and entered the tent where the meetings of the Committee were held, and shortly afterwards he informed me that the alterations would be made if the Nova Scotia men would remain and fire, to which I consented.

These alterations were made in every particular and I nominated competitors on behalf of the Nova Scotia Association who remained and fired.

If these are the alterations that are alluded to in the memorandum as being "of so trifling a character" the statement is extremely inconsistent with the latter part of the same document, a long paragraph of which is devoted to endeavouring to sustain the right to make these very nominations this year; the regulations in that respect being the same as those published in 1875 and afterwards altered as above stated.

It is quite true that I expressed unreserved satisfaction on the part of myself and the other representatives from Nova Scotia with the manner in which the competitions had been conducted, and I have not changed my opinion; the arrangement of the targets and the marking was extremely good, the Range officers and Register keepers knew their duty and did it, and so far as regards that department no fault could be found; I and the members of my team were satisfied that everything had been done to secure a correct registration of the marks obtained, and that no one got a prize to which he was not justly entitled. I therefore considered myself called upon to express my views, more especially as on a previous occasion the competitors from Nova Scotia were anything but satisfied with the way in which matters were conducted on the range; but I was always opposed to the mode adopted in 1875 for the selection of the Wimbledon team and to the regulations of the match, and I never at any time expressed my approval of the match being held at Ottawa or of the regulations made in relation to it as is insinuated in the memorandum referred to.

Your obedt. servt.,

J. N. RITCHIE, Lt.-Col.

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shooting capacity of our 4-pounders, to facilitate the bringing up of ammunition on the battle field, and to enable our foot batteries to move with greater promptitude and rapidity. Experiments made under the supervision of Col. Lawry have given us the model of a 4 pounder equal to the Prussian, Austrian, and French guns. It will be tested by some batteries in the ensuing year. The two-wheelers hitherto used to carry reserve ammunition have been converted into four wheelers, and a portion of these will be distributed in the course of the year. In the matter of breechloaders, we are engaged in converting the Krinke gun into the small calibre rifle of Bertran. By the beginning of this year we had rifles enough to provide sixteen divisions and all rifle Brigades with the new arm; but the distribution, when it is made, will include even a larger quantity, to render the transition from one system to another as quick a process as possible. In France and Germany no expense has been spared to complete the like operation in three or four years. Arrangements are being made in our powder manufactories to produce new articles fit for the remodelled rifle and the new 4 pounders we are going to adopt. The calibre of our fortress guns is being made equal to that of our coast artillery. Twelve and 14-inch guns have been cast in the Perm foundry out of cast iron, held together by steel rings. In addition to this, fresh guns are being continually made for the new fortresses which are building or intended to be built.

Ridgetown, 1st—On Wednesday last Messrs. Robert Oates, of Toronto, President of the United Canadian Association; George A. Clement, of Niagara, Vice President, and S. J. Brown, of Niagara, assisted by G. H. M. Johns, Chief of the Six Nation Indians, acting under instructions from the Association, proceeded to make a search for the remains of the great Indian warrior Tecumseh, so well known to all readers of Canadian history as having been of great assistance to the British in 1812. It appears that one Jacob Jameson, a companion in arms of Tecumseh, was present at his death and assisted at his burial, and for years after that, and in fact until shortly before his own death, a few years ago, was in the habit of visiting the grave of the great Indian warrior chief. For the purpose of enabling him to find the exact spot he had made a diagram which, after his death, was confided to the above mentioned members of the Association. Acting upon this they proceeded to the spot indicated, which is about 12 miles from Ridgetown, upon the 6th July, but found only certain articles which, however, showed that they were on the right track. On Wednesday, without any difficulty, they found and secured the remains and brought them to Ridgetown. The intention is to leave them at St. Thomas, pending the action of the Government.

Minister Ristars in an interview today stated that the Servians had not received any intimation from Turkey regarding the desire expressed by her to enter into negotiations for peace. It was at the desire of England that Prince Milan declared he was willing to enter upon such negotiations. At present, said the Minister of State, if affairs are changed, Servia will not be able to accept rigorous conditions such as the Porte is inclined to propose. The change of the Turkish sovereign might retard the negotiations of peace and alter the conditions of peace and the situation of the belligerents.