

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

VOL. VI.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 1891.

No. 32.

Reports from Manitoba show that the annual matches of the Provincial Rifle Association have been highly successful—an encouragement to those who last spring undertook the arduous task of management. There appears to have been a large attendance from west of Winnipeg, and the visitors earned a good representation on the provincial team for Ottawa.

The following is from the *Volunteer Service Gazette*: “We regret to hear of the sudden death, at Eastbourne, of General R. G. A. Luard. He distinguished himself in the Crimea and in China, and was one of the first Assistant Inspectors of Volunteers under Colonel M'Murdo. On the expiration of his term of office, he accepted the Adjutancy of the Cinque Ports R. V. He was afterwards on the Staff, if we remember rightly, at Manchester, and subsequently commanded the Canadian Militia for five years. At the time of his death he was Hon. Colonel of the 2nd Gloucestershire R. V. General Luard was a most energetic officer, and was greatly interested in the volunteer force. Many valuable contributions from his pen (usually signed R. G. A. L.) have appeared from time to time during a long series of years in the *Volunteer Service Gazette*.”

AN INVITATION TO CREEDMOOR.

The New York *Times* is anxious that a Canadian team of marksmen should compete at the approaching Creedmoor meeting of the National Rifle Association. It says: “With the good record made by the Dominion marksmen in England last month they might confidently count on winning honours and prizes enough at Creedmoor to repay them for the cost and trouble of a visit. They opened their career in England by handily beating Cambridge. Then at Bisley they captured all the prizes in the London Corporation match except one, and a Canadian carried off the Corporation Cup. Another member of their team won the Prince of Wales' prize, and they had second honours in the Mackinnon contest. They were beaten only seven points by the English team for the Kolapore Cup, and they secured a good share of money prizes. The Canadians could count upon a warm welcome for the sake of the additional interest which they would lend to the Creedmoor meeting; and while there would be no dazzling prospects of growing rich from the money prizes offered, yet the variety and interest of the events and the honours to be won might well furnish sufficient attraction.”

Last year the Secretary of the National went to a good deal of trouble in connection with a proposed visit of a Canadian team, and a cordial welcome was assured. The proposal fell through, however, not because there were not many marksmen willing to go, but for the want of an organizer. We believe that could an interchange of visits between Canadian and American rifle teams be arranged it would be greatly to the advantage of the pastime of rifle shooting.

The great attraction to a Canadian team at Creedmoor would of course be the Hilton Trophy match, which is open to teams of twelve men each from the Regular Army in any of the three military divisions of the United States, from the National Guard of any State, or from the military forces of other countries. The firing is at 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots with any military rifle. The position at 200 yards is standing, this being the condition most to the disadvantage of a Canadian team, as the standing position is so little practised in this country. The Creedmoor meeting unfortunately goes on at the same time as the Dominion matches at Ottawa, commencing on the 1st September, a day later than ours. We believe the Hilton Trophy match is to be fired on Saturday, so that our men would have barely time to reach Creedmoor after the close of the Ottawa meeting, and would have no chance for practice.

BELLEVILLE.

In the XV Battalion series of handicap matches, Bandmaster Riggs won the silver cup presented by Lieut.-Col. Lazier, finally, it being the third time; Captain W. N. Ponton winning the second prize of spoons, and Pte. D. A. Gibson the third prize. A new spoon competition has been begun.

The following pleasant paragraph is from the *Ontario* of the 6th inst.:—“Yesterday the members of No. 1 Co., 15th Batt., received a pleasant surprise in the shape of an invitation from Capt. Ponton to spend the evening with him at his residence, Front of Sidney. The company met at the drill shed in uniform, and after an enjoyable march in the cool of the evening, the plan of attack, the object of which was the captain's house, was explained in detail. After passing some distance over the hill the order to extend for attack was given and skirmishers were at once sent out. The company moved rapidly forward, making a detour towards the north, fences, ditches and even stubble fields not stopping them in their impetuous ardour. When within about 600 yards a heavy fire was opened by the besieged, a surprise indeed to the party attacking, who, however, with cheers advanced in extended order at the double. They were, however, forced to retire when a flanking party com-