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Comment and Criticism.

A CORRESPONDENT, signing himself "A Young Shot," writes from Quebec complaining of being unable to get a Martini rifle with which to practice for the D.R.A. matches, and asking who is to blame. As he has not sent his name the communication cannot be published in these columns nor can the inquiry be answered.

THE strength allowed for drill in Military District No. 8 formed the subject of a brief comment in our issue of the 14th inst. The attendance of A Company, I.S.C., at the brigade camp was erroneously, as explained last week, assigned as the cause of the limitation to 37 officers and men per company. A correspondent from New Brunswick, writing before the receipt of the paper containing the correction, points out the error, and also says: "The district order in question is based simply and clearly on General Orders (8) of 2nd June, which, limiting the district quota to 1,404 of all ranks, render the limit of the strength per company for drill absolutely necessary. No one regrets this more than the D. A. G. who issued the district order. One should not infer from the article above referred to that the district orders for drill this year were issued at the 'eleventh hour.' The general orders bear date 2nd June, and district orders 3rd June; no time therefore was lost in their issue. A spirit of economy is certainly the original cause of this much to be regretted limit of quota, but this is surely not a district matter."

WE never supposed that the grievance complained of was one which could be remedied at will by the D. A. G. of No. 8 district. For had such been the case we are satisfied that its existence would have been of brief duration. And as nothing gratifies the officers at headquarters more than to be able to please the force under their control, it may confidently be assumed that they also could not help it. But the grievance was a real not a fanciful one, and we hope the ventilation the matter has had in these columns may prove of some service in removing the necessity for such a cutting down in the future. To our mind it is not the officers of the district or of the department who need exhortation or deserve reproof. Rather should some means be devised to arouse greater public interest in the force, that the constituents might exercise a wholesome influence on its behalf with the representatives in parliament, and that they in turn might show a more liberal disposition when the militia estimates come before them for consideration.

ONE of the daily papers, which expresses disapproval of the action of the government in securing British naval pensioners to fill the ranks of "C" battery now being organized for duty in British Columbia,

says that the difficulty in securing recruits in Canada might easily be overcome by drafting men from "A" and "B" batteries, to go to the Pacific coast, and subsequently recruiting for these batteries in Eastern Canada. No doubt if such a draft were made the majority of the men would serve out the balance of the term for which they have engaged, but they would hardly re-enlist in British Columbia, where in civil life they could easily secure much more lucrative employment. With the pensioners the case is different. They have been brought up to a military life, and would gladly continue in it so long as well treated, while desertions would be very improbable as by such action forfeiture of their pensions would be involved. The strength of the new battery will probably be one hundred men.

BY the programme for the Nova Scotia provincial rifle matches this year it is shown that the shooting men of that province are firm in their opinion, so freely expressed at the last meeting of D. R. A. competitors, that the Snider is not a weapon fit for use at 600 yards. That range has been dropped from two of the matches fired with the Snider, and in all competitions to be fired at 600 yards it is provided that Martini rifles shall be used, while this weapon is also given a prominent place at the shorter ranges. The grand aggregate, which determines the team for Ottawa, will be made up as follows: With the Snider—14 rounds at 200 yards, and 24 at 500; total 38. With the Martini—7 rounds at 200 yards, 14 at 500 and 14 at 600; total, 35. The matches open on Tuesday the 2nd prox., two weeks earlier than last year. The prize list is a good one. The association are to be congratulated on the completeness and neat appearance of the printed programme, upon which it would be hard to improve.

THE maritime province men were probably the most ardent advocates of the replacement of the Snider by the Martini rifle at the 600 yards range in the D. R. A. matches. They carried their point at the competitors' meeting. The peculiar manner in which the executive of the Dominion association have responded to the wishes then expressed was pointed out in these columns when the D. R. A. programme was published a few weeks ago. It is not likely that the Nova Scotia men will be at all grateful for the change. It is true there is some Martini shooting introduced, but the Snider has to be used at 600 yards as much as ever, and those who have neglected practice with that weapon seem likely to be left behind in the keen competition for prizes. It will be noticed that the Ontario association, whose programme is published in this issue, stands loyally by the Snider rifle, all the aggregate matches being shot with it, while Quebec makes practice with both necessary.

WHEN it is noted that the mother country team who won the Kolapore cups last week averaged 89 points per man in the competition, it is not to be wondered at that the Canadians, who finished second, were so far behind—6 points per man. It is only occasionally in this country, where the Martini is still a strange weapon to most of the shooting men, that one hears of a single score of 89, let alone a team