

men of the Dominion, under equal conditions, can be made and that either with or without the co-operation of the Provincial Associations it is the only method by which the Executive of the Dominion Association can arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

But the gist of the Committee's objections to the regulations for this match is that it is to be held at Ottawa and that therefore competitors from Nova Scotia will have to travel further to take part in it than competitors from some other Provinces. As no other place is suggested, and as no place can be selected that would not be nearer to some riflemen than it would be to others, the only inference from such an objection is that in the opinion of the Committee there should be no such match at all, nor any competition for Dominion prizes and as a logical consequence no Dominion Rifle Association; a conclusion to which the Dominion Association can not assent.

The Executive of the Dominion Association would gladly remove what appear to be the main difficulties in the way of the attendance of marksmen from Nova Scotia. But it is impossible to abridge distances, and there does not appear to be any possibility of placing all marksmen on a footing of equality as to the cost of reaching Ottawa—or any other place—short of paying the travelling expenses of all who did not reside where the matches are held. As the Executive have no funds at their disposal for such a purpose, there is no alternative but to leave the removal of this difficulty of expense to the marksmen who desire to become competitors, to their friends and to the respective Provincial Associations. In doing so, the Executive has full confidence that when the matter is dispassionately considered in the respective Provinces by men who have the promotion of good rifle shooting and the interest of the whole Dominion at heart, and when generosity is above the influence of sectional jealousies, a satisfactory solution will be found.

It is unfortunate that the authors of the Circular confine themselves to finding fault and to the imputation of improper motives. Had they suggested some other method of making the selection of competitors for the Wimbledon Matches, good might have followed the consideration of their suggestions, even if they had been rejected. They will hardly deny that the first nomination of competitors in proportion to the number of members on the Council from each Province, and the selection of the best shots from the previous matches is a fair starting point. This narrows the objection to the appointment of five competitors by the Dominion Council. This Council the committee says should not be allowed to nominate any. Why not? Is not a Council which by election represents the whole Dominion as competent to make a good selection in the interest of the Dominion as they are? Or in case the number nominated by the Provinces and selected from the several matches should be insufficient, or suppose—as unfortunately is likely to happen on the present occasion—that one of the Provinces failed to make any nomination at all, should there not be some means for filling the vacancies? So also with reference to the nomination of fifteen competitors in the second stage of the match by the Executive Committee. Why should they not nominate them? Clearly the nomination can not be made until the first stage has been completed, for it can not be known until then who will be selected in that part of the competition. It is certain that at this juncture all the Provincial Associations will be duly represented on the ground by parties

either qualified or authorized to select for them? On the other hand, is it not obvious that with all the scores made by competitors during the whole meeting before them the Executive is the best qualified to act in this matter?

The authors of the Circular arrive at the conclusion, that the Council of the Dominion Association ought not, either as a whole or by their Executive Committee to have any voice in this matter. They lay great stress on the fact that, seven of the members reside in Ottawa, a fact which they seem to consider inconsistent with honorable conduct or generous impulses, and they impute inferentially, that because the Meetings of the Executive are held in Ontario, and because most of the business is necessarily transacted by gentlemen residing at Ottawa, these gentlemen regardless of the interests entrusted to them, and without any desire to secure the best available marksmen, will certainly prefer inferior men from Ontario to better ones from Nova Scotia.

As the Executive Committee is appointed by the Council elected from all the Provinces, has taken care to nominate an Executive in whom they have confidence, it is only fair to assume that they would desire for their own credit, to secure the best marksmen to be had, without regard to the Provinces in which they reside; and in order to do so, discard all sectional feeling, and act with a single eye to the triumph of Canadian Rifles in the Mother Country.

If the Nova Scotian Association labours under the unhappy impression that the larger Provinces desire to take advantage of it; if it has no confidence in the honor or good sense of the Executive of the Dominion Association, why has it not, at a suitable time, suggested changes in its personnel. Such suggestions would, have tested the willingness of the Dominion Association to give their proposals a favourable consideration, and without doubt, their representatives, whether direct from Halifax or resident in Ottawa, would receive the consideration to which everything emanating from that Province is entitled.

Or, if Nova Scotia believes that the Executive of the Dominion Association has failed in its duty in the past, why has that failure not been pointed out? Was there any objection to the selection of competitors for places in the Wimbledon Team in 1875?

Did the Executive in making its selection display any sectional bias? Did the representatives from Nova Scotia make any suggestions as to that selection that were disregarded? Or was there any other act of commission or omission to which the Committee desire to take exception? If so, it had better be stated.

Finally, while the Executive of the Dominion Association would gladly remove—if that were possible—all difficulties in the way of obtaining the co-operation of the Provincial Association of Nova Scotia, and while they feel the utmost regret at the course which that Association has seen fit to pursue, they are unable to discover any means whereby this much desired object can be accomplished. They have therefore no alternative but to submit themselves to the influence of time which they do confidently believing that they have done all that lay in their power towards removing the sectional jealousies which unfortunately exist.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.

C. STUART, LIEUT.-COLONEL,
Secretary Dominion of Canada,
Rifle Association.

OTTAWA, August 19th, 1876.

We are indebted to the correspondent of the United States Army and Navy Journal for the following account of the removal of the wounded in the late battles:—

"After Custer and Reno's battle on the Little Horn, the removal of the sick and wounded became a subject of serious consideration. No ambulances could be got into the country, and the nearest point to water transportation was twenty-two miles distant. Rafts were advised, but the Little Horn is so narrow, shallow and tortuous rafts could not be got down it. Then it was determined to carry the wounded by hand, but the soldiers were six hours in making three miles, and it took 150 men to move the litters. Lieut. G. W. Doane, Second U. S. Cavalry, proposed to General Terry that if he would halt for half a day he would provide horse litters for the sick and wounded. A detail of men was placed at Lieut. Doane's service. He had no nails, but horses were shot and skinned for rawhide, which is the Indian's substitute for a nail; he had no rope, but the rawhide answered also for this. Two poles 13 feet long and 3 inches in diameter are laid side by side, 3 feet apart; and then two cross pieces 7 feet apart (the length of a bed) were laid across the poles and bound to them with rawhide. Next, a network of rawhide was woven from one pole to another, just as we used to cord a bed with rope. Two loops at the ends reaching like a bent bow from one pole to another completed the litter. A mule was backed in the front end between the poles, which extended along his side like a pair of shafts, and the loop placed over a pack saddle. Another mule was led into the rear end of the poles, with his head towards the front mule's tail and the loop of rawhide placed over the pack saddle and the litter was ready for transportation. A soft bed of grass, blankets and robes was then made on the rawhide cords, and the man laid on it, with his head toward the front mule's tail and his feet under the rear mule's nose. It was astonishing how these litters would carry. The spring of the side poles and the giving of the rawhide destroyed all jolt, and after a little travelling the mules would take a uniform step, and even trot without hurting the wounded. Forty-two of these litters were made in half a day, and the wounded taken in six hours over a distance it would have required three days to carry them by hand. Even the setting down and picking up of a hand litter, the wounded said caused them more pain than the trotting of the mules with Mr. Doane's ingenious contrivance."

It would appear notwithstanding recent mechanical improvements and the approval of a "board of Ordnance officers" that the military weapon known as the *Springfield carbine* issued to the mounted troops of the United States Army, is not by any means a perfect or reliable firearm. The following letter of the gallant soldier who was fortunate enough to bring his command out of the disastrous action on the Little Big Horn in which his superior officer, a wing of his own regiment perished, will show the necessity of caution in adopting patterns of arms without sufficient trial.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH CAVALRY,
CAMP ON YELLOWSTONE RIVER,
July 11th, 1876.

General S. V. Benet, Chief of Ordnance, U.S.A.:

I have the honor to report that in the engagement of the 25th and 26th of June, 1876,