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Comment and Criticism.

THE Militia General Orders of the 5th inst. appear elsewhere in this issue, and may be perused with interest. Wonder what officers of the force have been cultivating habits of extravagance in dealing with their commands? The caution against this evil which appears in the orders is similar to that recently issued by the Imperial authorities to the force in the mother country.

LATER papers enable us to make an addition to the long list published in last issue, of prizes won by Canadians at the recent Wimbledon meeting. In the Bertram Staff-Sergt. Loggie was 23rd, winning £2. In the Association Cup, Pte. Riddle was 34th, and Color-Sergt. Mitchell was 73rd, each taking £2. The total winnings of the Canadian twenty were something over four hundred pounds, quite a substantial amount. The Wimbledon meeting appears to have passed off satisfactorily in every respect. The threatened closing of the range seems to have had the effect of inducing much better behaviour on the part of the inhabitants of the camp, which may perhaps tend to silence some of the objections of the neighbouring residents.

IN connection with the comment which appeared in these columns last week concerning the comparatively little importance attached to shooting by the Canadian militia force as a whole, the following quotation from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* makes interesting reading. This paper says editorially: "The rifle competitions of 1887 commenced this week in some of the departments, and the whole for the year will be completed by the last of September. The zeal in this particular and important branch of instruction is unabated, and the time seems not far off when two-thirds of the army will be either qualified sharpshooters or marksmen." Would that it might be said conscientiously that the time is not far off when such a condition of affairs may be hoped to exist with the Canadian force!

ONCE more the Provincial rifle association matches, the best practice for the Dominion meeting at Ottawa, are in progress, and it is gratifying to note the reports of increase in the number of entries which are being made. The prize lists for British Columbia were published last week. In this issue there appear the results of the Nova Scotia gathering, while the commencement of the competition for Quebec province at Montreal is noted. Besides the last named meeting, that also of the Manitoba rifle association is in progress this week, at Stoney Mountain range. The prospects are, judging from inquiries made of the secretary,

that the attendance at the D.R.A. meeting will this year again exceed that of the past. The single fare rate for round trip tickets which the railways have granted the riflemen has no doubt had the effect of causing an increase in the number travelling to the shooting centres.

THE suggestion made by a correspondent whose letter appeared last week, that Ottawa city should offer a series of prizes for competitions from the distant provinces, has since been the subject of much favorable comment by those conversant with the heavy expense and inconvenience these competitors are put to in attending at Rideau range. It is too late to do anything in the matter this year, but an effort should be made to have the idea carried out in 1888. That a match for their exclusive benefit would increase the attendance of riflemen from the remote parts of the Dominion there can be no doubt, and it would certainly be a sound investment for Ottawa to make.

NO conclusion has we believe yet been arrived at by the executive of the Dominion Rifle Association concerning the manner of presenting this year the chief prizes won at the annual competition. An afternoon, has, however, been left available for this purpose, as the last of the shooting will take place on Friday morning. The public presentations have in the past been very unsatisfactory. A public ceremony without spectators is a farce as well as a nuisance to the prizewinners, and for lack of accommodation there have been very few spectators at the presentations which have taken place in front of the officers' marquee. Often indeed there were several hundred persons present, but not one-tenth of these could see anything of what was going on in the inner ring. We would suggest that if any more public presentations are to take place at Rideau range a grand stand should be erected, from which all who wished might view the proceedings in comfort. A small admission fee might be charged to meet the cost of the structure. In Montreal the experiment has been tried of presenting the chief prizes won at the P. Q. R. A. meetings, in the evening in the Victoria rink, where all interested might comfortably attend. By such devices much greater public interest is aroused in the doings of the riflemen than when they are suffered to walk off without ceremony with the handsome prizes which their skill has enabled them to win.

CAPT. HARSTON'S improvement on the Martini rifle has frequently been attended to in these columns, and it gives us pleasure to hear that its merits have been recognized by the Imperial government, as shown by the following interesting paragraph from the *Toronto World*: "The British War Office authorities have notified Captain Harston of this city to make for them a number of his converted Martini magazine rifles, the latest improved sample of which was sent them last February. The conversion of the Martini to the Harston patent can be effected at a cost of \$1.25, and as the English government has on hand 500,000 new Martinis the adoption of this patent could easily be effected and, as a magazine gun has been decided upon a great saving would be the result. The Lee-Burton has been running