

appeared, surveyed, departed and reported. Two desirable locations were offered and expectation of something coming of it almost amounted to a ray of hope, but between two stools one generally reaches the floor, and such has been the experience in this instance. Not a stick nor a stone has been turned, and the end of May is close at hand.

Volunteering is at no time, or in any particular point, a service of all apples and marbles, and the one bright spot to the majority in this city, is now rubbed out by carelessness or callousness somewhere.

Deputations have been humbugged and all fair means so far tried have miserably failed—promises and procrastination being the only outcome to date, and the treatment meted out to Montreal shooting men in particular, and the whole district militia in general, with regard to shooting accommodation, is an outrage on as deserving a body of volunteers as can be got together in the Dominion. They have had to put up with all sorts of makeshifts in the way of ranges, and have now some reason for the general feeling of indignation which has grown up, and also for demanding that there be a cessation of that masterly policy of inactivity so long endured, and one inaugurated where common sense and some idea of the necessities of the case can be brought to bear.

Just here I may say that it has a strange appearance with so many influential officers in this city and four members of Parliament on the whiphand side that nothing can be done to lash the department up to the breach. Is it a want of a pull together that leaves this matter in the slough of despond, or is it that such a trifling thing as making skilled marksmen is of even less importance than a dance or a dinner?

H. A. BROCKLESBY,
(Secy. Montreal Rifle Association.)

STAFF UNIFORM.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR.—The Quebec Provincial Parliament was opened last week with great solemnity, the Lieut.-Governor being surrounded by a brilliant staff, and his aide-de-camp resplendent in a new staff officer's uniform, with captain's badges of rank thereon; cocked hat, and all complete. Now would you kindly inform your readers by what authority he wears such a uniform. Moreover his name is not visible in the last militia list, but that may be an oversight because Linch-Pin says it is full of mistakes, like the Army List. But is His Honour strictly entitled to a military aide-de-camp. Another question is, what kind of a dress is this, that His Honour's secretary has adopted? It is not to be found in the Canadian dress regulations, either military or civil, viz., black dress coat with brass buttons, and light blue lapels.

DRAGROPE.

SLOVENLINESS OFF PARADE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Having had occasion to visit one of our principal cities the other day, I was somewhat surprised to see a number of volunteers parading the main streets of the city, in broad day light, dressed in a very unsoldier-like and slovenly manner—some in regimentals minus a proper head gear (which was supplied by a broad rimmed felt), others, tunic only, whilst some carried waist belts in their hands, tunics flying open, with huge pipes in their mouths. Being something of a military man myself I must confess it does not in my eyes add to the dignity of the Canadian militia to see such lack of discipline shown by a supposed crack city corps. Now, sir, as the captains of companies I presume are responsible for the proper appearance of their men, don't you agree with me when I say, it would be much more to their credit to endeavour to have men when going to and coming from parade dressed as neatly as when in the ranks.

MARS.

Ottawa, 22nd May, 1888.

CANADIAN AMMUNITION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—To the riflemen of Canada it must seem incredible that the incident referred to in your issue of the 10th instant could actually have occurred in the House of Commons. In reply to the direct inquiry of the Hon. A. G. Jones as to whether any changes had been made at the Quebec Cartridge Factory during the year with the view of improving the ammunition, I read that "the Minister of Militia, without answering the query as to the changes, read a letter he had received from Lt.-Col. Holmes, commanding C Battery in British Columbia." The substance of that letter was that C Battery had recently expended 4,000 rounds of Canadian ammunition in its target practice; that the writer had found it as good and reliable as any he had seen anywhere, even of English make, and that a brother officer in the battery spoke highly of it and considered all the fault hitherto found with it to be groundless.

In themselves such statements could only be a source of amusement to the active rifle shots of our militia. But what are we to infer from the fact that they were made by the Hon. the Minister of Militia as an answer to the inquiry thus made of him? Are we to understand that the militia department has accepted them in preference to the oft expressed conviction of our leading rifle shots to the contrary; in preference even to the earnest resolutions passed at the general meeting of competitors held at Ottawa in September last? And yet the use which was made of Col. Holmes' letter seems to warrant no other conclusion, the more especially as the Minister of Militia prefaced the reading of the letter by stating that its contents "would satisfy public opinion more than anything he could say from personal knowledge." How absurd this is, and yet if my conclusion is correct how serious a matter is it to the militia and our rifle associations? It looks very much as though we must despair of seeing any proper measures taken to save Snider shooting from continuing the farce we have known it for the past three years.

But, Mr. Editor, as these statements have commended themselves to the militia department, and are offered as a comfort to our disappointed hopes, we may perhaps be justified in examining them a little more closely, and endeavouring to find if there be any excuse for the favourable reception they have met with.

The first fact is that C Battery has expended 4,000 rounds in target practice, whether at distances greater than 400 yds. is not stated, and to the mind of Col. Holmes the results were satisfactory. It might be pertinent to inquire how many passable rifle shots C Battery contains, for it must be blessed far above the average battery or company if the majority of its members can do more than hit and miss. We may surely decline to accept the results of a "target practice" as proving aught in regard to ammunition. Fancy an officer decrying ammunition because his rank and file failed to make good average scores in target practice! The results either way

are simply worthless compared with the experience of a Dominion or Provincial meeting.

The commandant of C Battery next expresses his own faith in the cartridges, and I go so far as to assume, though he does not say so, that he bases his faith on the scores he has himself made, claiming to be a judge in such matters because of having 15 years ago won the 5th place on the Wimbledon Team, and since continued a fair average shot. What about the men who have repeatedly gained a place on the Wimbledon Team; who have year by year upheld their reputations at Provincial and Dominion gatherings, and whose frequent practice has proved to them that a defect there is either in ball or cartridge? One would think that these men had not offered any opinion on the quality of the ammunition. Moreover, the Minister of Militia chose to speak of Col. Holmes and Major Peters as being practical men and first-rate rifle shots. It would not be necessary or desirable to question the fact were it not for the weight which has been attached to their opinions. But if the Minister of Militia meant that these officers are equally so as the officers and men who are well known at Rideau, the remark must be taken as altogether too kindly and complimentary. Certain it is that neither of these officers has made himself known to Canadian rifle shooting during the past ten years.

Finally we are told that this is an opinion from British Columbia. I wonder if the gallant Major and member from Victoria (himself an actual rifle shot) accepted it as such, or if the association of that province will acknowledge it. Until the department is aware of the verdict of that association and its riflemen it should decline to accept the views of C Battery as in any sense those of the marksmen of British Columbia.

But was it necessary to go to British Columbia for a straightforward opinion on the Quebec cartridge, or was it accepted only because it was favourable? The eastern provinces have not been silent. The department must know that all the provincial associations, as well as the dominion, have substantially condemned the ammunition. The ridiculously low scores by which their prizes have been won gave them no option. From Toronto and Halifax, from Sussex and Montreal there has come the same story, and surely nothing can account for such a general falling off save a want of uniformity in the cartridges. To enthusiastic militiamen who have conscientiously endeavoured to do their best with these cartridges and yet have failed to make even average work with them, it is exasperating, as well as hopeless, to find that their experience has been ignored, and I doubt not they will join with me in protesting against the adoption of the idle, unwarranted statements which were read in the hearing of the House of Commons.

DROP-SHOT.

A Challenge Shield for the 43rd Rifles.

NUMBER 6, the New Edinburgh Ward company of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, were on Saturday evening last the recipients of a handsome silver challenge shield, the gift of their admirers amongst the ladies of the ward. The auspicious event occurred at the drill hall, where the company were present in full force, a great many ladies were in attendance, and amongst other friends of the company, Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton was there to do them honour.

The presentation was made by Mrs. Bell, wife of Surgeon W. R. Bell, of the Ottawa Field Battery, and mother of Capt. B. H. Bell, of No. 6 Company 43rd. The accompanying address was beautifully illuminated on vellum by Mrs. F. T. Thomas, of New Edinburgh. It set forth the ladies' appreciation of their sons and brothers in their role of "defenders of the land," and asked the company to accept the shield as a stimulus to sustained efforts in the interests of No. 6, and the 43rd battalion generally, in developing skill in rifle shooting.

Capt. Bell thanked the ladies for their kindness in a neat speech. Afterwards he read to the men the terms on which the trophy is to be shot for, as follows:

1. The shield to be the property of the company and to remain in the company's drill hall, except when being engraved or on exhibition.
2. To be fired for on the following days, viz., The last Saturdays in June, July and August, but provided either of these days should prove unfavourable, a suitable day to be decided upon by a vote of the company.
3. The man making the highest aggregate score on the three above mentioned occasions, shall be considered the winner of the shield for the ensuing year, and will have his name engraved thereon.
4. The winner of the shield for each year will be presented with a badge, and the man winning the shield three years consecutively will be presented with a badge and also a trophy to the value of \$25.
5. If any year the drill should not take place till after the shield has been fired for, the winner thereof for the ensuing year will be required to put in above specified amount of drill before being permitted to have his name engraved thereon and before receiving the badge, failing to do so the man with the next highest score complying with the above rules will be considered the winner of the shield.
6. The shield to be fired for over the following ranges, viz., 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots at each range; no sighting shots or coaching will be allowed.
7. Position, 200 yards, standing or kneeling; 400 and 500 yards, any position with head to target.
8. Ties to be decided by three shots each at 500 yards, and then, if necessary, by alternate shots at the same range.
9. In all competitions for the shield, uniform shall be worn (drill order).
10. In the event of the company being disbanded, the shield to become the personal property of the man who has won it the greatest number of times; ties in this case to be decided by firing over the above ranges, as per clause six of these rules.
11. Any point arising not covered by these rules to be decided by the D. R. A. rules and regulations of the preceding year. The shield will be known as the "Ladies Challenge Trophy."

The funeral of the late Mr. D. A. Shearan took place from his residence, 161 Sumach st, Toronto on the 11th inst., and was attended by the members of the Army and Navy Veterans' Society, of which deceased was a member, having belonged to Her Majesty's Royal Artillery. The pall-bearers were Messrs. T. Tyler, Dunn and Curtis, late 30th Regiment, and McKay, King's Own Borderers. These, with about 30 other veterans who followed, wore the society badges, covered with black crape. This being the first death of a member of the society it is gratifying to know that the family of the deceased becomes entitled to a sum sufficient to meet funeral and doctor's expenses, which was promptly paid without materially injuring the society's funds. The old custom of the mourners filling in the grave was observed by Messrs. Gibbs (Seaforth Highlanders), Welton and Illingsworth (Princess Louise Highlanders), Wilson (Black Watch), and others.