

case labor more valuable to the state than military service will be interfered with, and that individuals filling mercantile and other positions by which the *sinews of war* are supplied, could not give as good or valuable services in a military as in a civil point of view. In Prussia where the axiom that *every man owes the State military service* is followed to its logical conclusion and where immense forces are maintained at a comparatively small rate, it has been asserted that the cost of her army to the state is far greater than that of any other country because the principles of productive industry is needlessly interfered with by a cast iron rule. The application of the ballot to the people of Canada indiscriminately would place them relatively in a similar position; it is, therefore, objectionable and should not be resorted to except in cases of emergency;

but we believe the application of a *poll tax* would remedy in a great measure the evils of short musters, and to this might be added the feudal obligation of employers of labor to furnish a certain proportion of their men as Volunteers, or if employing women or children alone, a poll tax equal to the cost of a corresponding proportion of Volunteers. The only evil the present system has to contend with is apparently the selfishness of the mercantile class and the consequent discouragement to those who would willingly serve if they could. "Centurion" may depend on it that the only way to deal with these people is to touch their pockets, that operation being a wonderful stimulus to patriotism in their case. We heartily agree with all the rest of his suggestions with the addition that the municipal authorities should be accountable for the due preservation of the arms and clothing of the local companies; it would be a far more certain and cheaper safeguard against waste or ill usage than any other that could be devised. We have tried hard for the last five years to have the Quartermaster General's department, the medical department and an Ordnance Corps established, hitherto without success. Our plan for the first was precisely the same as "Centurion's," its great recommendation being its inexpensiveness. No adequate reason can be given for not organizing the Department except perhaps the press of business on the hardest worked and numerically the weakest department of Government. It is to be hoped, however, that the time has arrived when these measures can be dealt with. The country has great reason to feel satisfied with that system which has hitherto answered every demand on it promptly and freely, nor does there seem to be sufficient reason to abolish it for one in the end far more costly the value being as yet merely theoretical, nor can it be proved that it would furnish us with better trained soldiers or officers; indeed, the facts would be to the other way, if our training has not made soldiers of men after seven years service it

will be far less likely to do so if limited to two years. On the whole then, while believing "Centurion's" suggestions to be most valuable, we are not convinced that it would be either prudent or profitable to part with the Volunteer system. Another feature which we deem impracticable and unprofitable, as well, is that of rotation of officers; the very nature of our organization is opposed to it as a system, and it would be no object in this country to bend the energies of a life to the acquisition of five years employment. Our best plan is to let our staff appointments move by seniority; it is the only course now practicable. We trust "Centurion" may be enabled to dispense for many long years with the last office of "the flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze."

Our readers attention is requested for the letter of "Justice" in this issue, especially as it is the unbiased opinion of an officer practically acquainted with the subject on which he writes and also with the feeling existing throughout the country thereon. There can be no doubt that means must be applied to ensure the more equal distribution of military service, but it will be impossible to mix up the Volunteer force with the Regular Militia, which will be the case if the ballot is applied to filling up its ranks.

### RIFLE COMPETITION.

#### YORK COUNTY RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

##### ANNUAL COMPETITION.

The Annual competition of the York County Rifle Association took place at the Rifle Range in Fredericton on Friday last, during one of the most baffling winds in which ever a marksman sighted a target. It seemed to blow from all points of the compass simultaneously, so that it was next to impossible to allow the necessary windage with any degree of accuracy. Notwithstanding this the score upon the whole was fully up to the average of such occasions.

In the first Competition there were three ties for the Provincial Rifle Association Medal, Major Morris, Quartermaster Hogg, and Ensign Johnston. On counting back it fell to Major Morris. The Quartermaster's cup by a singular coincidence was won by the Quartermaster himself, who, however transferred it to Ensign Johnston. The Provincial Secretary's prize fell to Pte. Perkins. The Challenge Cup, and one of the sovereigns presented by J. Myhrall, Esq., also fell to Pte. Perkins. The other two sovereigns were won by Sergeant Pinder and Ensign Hartt respectively.

The Presentation took place on Monday evening in the City Hall, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen who thus testified their interest in these annual competitions and in the Volunteer movement. The Band of the Battalion was also present and discoursed the most charming music during the presentation, and afterwards adjourned to the Barrack Square where they entertained a large crowd of citizens and strangers until about 10 o'clock.

The prizes in first competition were presented by the Deputy Adjutant General, Col. Maunsell, who in a concise and appropriate speech explained the nature and pur-

poses of Rifle Competitions, and the accuracy of aim, so essential to a Volunteer, which these same competitions were intended to promote. He also referred briefly to the success of the Volunteer movement in New Brunswick, as manifested by the late Camp of Instruction in Fredericton. He then distributed the prizes as follows:—

##### 1st COMPETITION.

Ranges 200, 300, and 400 yards.	pts.
Major Morris, P. R. A. Medal.....	46
Quartermaster Hogg.....	46
Ens. Johnston, Quartermaster's Cup.....	46
Pte. E. Morris.....	44
Ensign Hartt.....	44
Sergt. Pinder.....	43
Pte. Ruel.....	42
Pte. Robinson.....	40
Sergt. Edmonds.....	40
Sergt. Lipsett.....	40
Capt. Alexander.....	39
Sergt. Cook.....	39
Pte. Patchell.....	38
Pte. Perkins.....	37

The prizes in the second competition were presented by the Hon. Provincial Secretary. He made a grand speech, the tenor of which was to encourage the young Volunteers to persevere in a movement which had for its object such a glorious purpose as the defence of their hearths and homes, their wives and sweethearts.

##### 2nd COMPETITION.

Ranges 500 and 600 yards.	pts.
Pte. Perkins, Hon. G. L. Hatheway's Prize.....	25
Ensign Johnston.....	24
Sergt. Pinder.....	24
Pte. Robinson.....	23
Ensign Hartt.....	23
Capt. Alexander.....	22
Sergt. Cook.....	21
Sergt. Edmonds.....	21
Quartermaster Hogg.....	20
Pte. Morris.....	20
Capt. and Paymaster Smith.....	19
Sergt. Lipsett.....	19
Pte. Patchell.....	19

The prizes in 3rd Competition were presented by Hon. John A. Beckwith, who made a humorous and at the same time a most appropriate speech. He told how the skilled marksman of Canada levelled their Snider-Enfields at the first Fenian cut throats who dared invade our soil, and at the distance of over half a mile made them bite the dust never to rise again. He announced himself as the oldest Volunteer in the room, and one of the oldest Militia Officers in the Dominion.

The prizes in this competition were then presented as follows:—

##### 3rd COMPETITION.

Ranges 400 and 500 yards.	pts.
Private Perkins, Challenge Cup and Sovereign from Joseph Myhrall, Esq.....	32
Sergt. Pinder, Sovereign, the gift of Jos. Myhrall, Esq.....	31
Ensign Hartt, Sovereign, the gift of Jos. Myhrall, Esq.....	28

The Consolation prizes were presented by Major Marsh, who in a few brief remarks thanked the ladies and gentlemen of the audience for their presence and countenance on that occasion.

##### CONSOLATION.

Range 200 yards.—5 shots.	pts.
Capt. Davies.....	15
Pte. Eggar.....	15
Sergt. Major Vandine.....	15
Sergt. Jarvis.....	14
Capt. Staples.....	14
Sergt. Smith.....	12

The presentation passed off in the most satisfactory manner, and the crowd dispersed apparently much pleased with the events of the evening.—N. B. Reporter.