

ex-officio members: Lieut.-General Laurie, M.P.; Col. Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen; Lieut.-Col. George A. Kirkpatrick, M.P.; Lieut.-Col. Oswald, Montreal; Capt. McCrae, Guelph; Capt. Bliss, Ottawa; Major Garrison, Capt. Maxwell, Halifax; Capt. Hendrie, Capt. Stuart, Hamilton; Lieuts. Myles and Irving, Messrs. Cox, Dodd, and Jones, Toronto.

Mr. Irving moved, seconded by Mr. Dodd, that the Militia Department be requested to furnish two instructional targets to each battery. Carried.

A vote of thanks to the secretary, Capt. Donaldson, was then proposed and carried unanimously. It embodied besides the kind words a vote of \$300 for Capt. Donaldson's services.

THE COUNCIL MEETING.

A meeting of the new council was held in the afternoon. There were present Lieut.-Cols. McKenzie, Irwin, Cotton, Macdonald, Turnbull; Majors Stewart, Van Wagner, Mead and King; Captains McCrae, Donaldson, Bliss and Hendrie; Lieut. Irwin, and Messrs. Cox, Dodd and Jones. The election of officers was first proceeded with and resulted as follows:

President—Lieut.-Col. Turnbull.

Vice-Presidents—Major Lindsay, Major Stewart, Capt. Hendrie, Lieut.-Col. Moore.

Secretary-Treasurer—Capt. J. B. Donaldson.

Executive Committee—Lieut. Irving, Major Cole, Major Stewart (from Ontario Artillery Association).

It was moved by Lieut.-Col. Curren, seconded by Capt. Donaldson. That the executive committee be requested to consider the advisability of making arrangements so that the result of each man's scoring should be made known immediately after the man has fired. Carried.

It was moved by Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, seconded by Major Stewart, That the arrangements for the annual competitions and prizes for 1889 be referred to the executive committee; and that the equalization of the prize lists be specially considered. Carried.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin then explained the proposed arrangements for 1889, and requested suggestions from the meeting. There was no further formal business transacted, and the meeting shortly adjourned.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THAT COMPREHENSIVE CHALLENGE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I notice in your issue of 21st February, a letter under the above heading. The term "comprehensive" is very appropriate and I hope was put in by you as a hint.

For the last fifteen years I have been interested in the most important rifle matches that have taken place in the Dominion, and I am proud to say that I have never known a match to be shot for a wager as proposed by our Toronto friend.

My opinion is that the further gambling, betting and drinking is kept from the public gaze the better, especially in connection with reports of rifle contests, and I hope these gentlemen will have to look further than the editor of the GAZETTE for a stakeholder, or any other encouragement in a course that will certainly injure the cause of

"PURE SPORT."

FENIAN RAID DISTINCTIONS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Under date of Wednesday, May 4th, 1887 (nearly two years ago), a large and representative delegation of militiamen and ex-militiamen from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec (and including a number of members of parliament) waited upon the Rt. Hon. Sir John Macdonald, and several members of his cabinet, and presented them with largely signed memorials asking them that some tangible acknowledgment, such as a decoration, be granted to those who had served during the Fenian raids of 1866-70. If I am not mistaken, the reply of the Rt. Hon. the Premier was to the effect that "the subject was one that called for action by the Imperial government; that the matter would be duly laid before them with favourable recommendations, etc., and that in the event of the Home government not entertaining the suggestion, the Dominion government would then deal with the matter in a manner acceptable to the memorialists." Can you inform your readers as to what shape the matter now stands, or is it (like other questions affecting the militia force) considered a *stock* subject, and as such pigeon-holed for the time being?

FENIAN RAID.

THE SERGEANT MAJOR.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I am particularly interested in a part of Col. Smith's report on No. 1 District in the Militia Report, just pub-

lished, where he says: "The absence of suitable sergeants-major is very marked. No effort should be spared to induce good men to qualify for this latter rank, and to remain in the position after qualifying."

Now, sir, under the existing state of affairs it is no wonder to me that Col. Smith finds it necessary to report as above, or that when a suitable man is promoted he speedily tires of the position. In the first place he finds that after all he is only a n.c.o.; his pay is only 10c. per day more than an ordinary staff-sergeant; if he qualifies he cannot take better than a grade B certificate; so that when he eventually takes a commission he can only rank as high as a Lieutenant, and is therefore put to the trouble and expense of again attending the School to take a grade A certificate; and yet a sergeant-major is expected to and should know as much if not more than any officer in his regiment.

Then again in the matter of expense, his outfit is as costly as an officer's, and in the event of his going on active service, he finds himself at the end of the campaign, as was the case in the late rebellion, in need of a new outfit or nearly so. The officers will find themselves in the same predicament but they will have been in receipt of their field service pay, 69c. for a 2nd Lieut, which is given with the object of covering this extra expense, while the sergt.-major has the pleasure of providing himself anew out of his own pocket. Besides this his prominent position in his corps entails upon him many sundry expenses.

As regards his knowledge of military matters he is expected to be a walking encyclopedia, while his other necessary qualities, as laid down in the Rules and Regulations for the Canadian Militia on page 41, are to say the least pretty fair. The paragraph reads: "The sergt.-major is the senior and chief of the n.c.o's. He should be selected for his intelligence, tact and soldierlike qualities. In him should be embodied all that is manly, soldierlike and zealous." A list of his many duties is then given: "These duties are so manifold that he should be the smartest and most intelligent man in the regiment, and his conduct and example such as shall cause him to be esteemed and respected by every man in it."

A pretty fair specimen of a man! And if such a one is ever got to fill the bill he is not likely to be content to remain in such a thankless position. Perhaps the gallant D.A.G. of No 1 can suggest some means of making the position more encouraging, but it is little wonder under the existing state of things that it is hard to get good and efficient men to take the rank or to keep it for any length of time after being promoted.

A SERGEANT-MAJOR

Toronto, 26th February, 1889.

Regimental News.

The band of the 27th Batt. have issued an exceedingly attractive programme and invitation card combined for their first annual ball, to be held at Sarnia, Ont., on Monday next. The officers of the committee are: Thos. H. Cook, president; Geo. Wenino, secretary; and A. J. Patterson, chairman.

Bandmaster James Carter, of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, who only recently took over the charge of the smart musical body attached to that battalion, is likely to resign on account of failing health.

The Dufferin Rifles.

There appears in the Brantford *Expositor* of the 19th inst., the following report of the first of an interesting series of entertainments to be given by the 38th: "Perhaps no more pleasant spot may be found in this city than in the elegantly fitted-up and comfortable quarters of the officers of the Dufferin Rifles. And it is particularly pleasant when Lieut.-Col. Jones and his officers are "at home" to their friends. On Monday evening the first of what promises to be a most enjoyable monthly affair, was given, taking the form of an informal concert or entertainment, through which everybody smoked. Among those present were Lt.-Col. Jones, Surgeon Harris, Major B. H. Rothwell, Capt. W. A. Wilkes, Capt. H. J. McGlashan, Capt. H. F. Leonard, Capt. A. E. Christie, Capt. J. H. McLean, Lieuts. Jos. Ruddy, W. G. Kilmaster, Charles Ott, and the following guests: E. L. Gould, Major Snartt, Lord T. Whitehead, G. R. Van Norman, Q.C., H. K. Wickstead, J. K. Osborne, J. V. Morton, Chief J. J. Vaughan, L. F. Heyd, J. W. Bowlby, H. Gow, F. B. Pollard, W. G. Raymond, Jos. N. Shenston, Thos. Foster, C. K. McGregor, S. G. Read, F. D. Reville, R. J. Smith, J. R. Lawler, H. J. Minty, Dr. Minchin, Mr. Gardner, C. L. Daniel and a few others.

Captain Christie had been instructed to see that a programme of entertainment was provided for and succeeded admirably. In the first place two great jars of the most fragrant tobacco were supplied along with a few pipes. But it was generally understood that those who attended should bring along their own pipes and the behest was obeyed. As a consequence there was a variety of dhudeens agoing sufficient to