

THE KOLAPORE SPECIAL MEDALS.

Accustomed to judge the strength of the Wimbledon teams largely by the issue of the one great but brief contest in which the picked men of the Mother Country and the Colonies strive for the championship of the Empire, the Canadian public are always keenly interested in the winning of the Kolapore Cups, and a thrill of pride is felt in all parts of the Dominion whenever the cable announces that our riflemen have achieved that honour. As a matter of fact, the test is not a conclusive one as to the relative merits of a team who may have been successful this year and another who last year may have suffered defeat. The public, however, do not trouble to make analyses of scores or to ascertain averages of shooting or prize winning. They do not appreciate the significance of the winning of high individual prizes by the twenty Canadians competing with the host of riflemen—2,500 strong—gathered at the greatest tournament of the day. But the Kolapore contest is something easy to be understood, and the team happy enough to be successful in it are felt to be worthy of signal honour. And so they are; for while better teams may other years have failed, none but a good team can at any time win. Giving effect to the public feeling, the Dominion Government present, after every Canadian victory, a gold medal to each of the eight men contributing to it. The full-size illustration appearing on this page shows the design of the medal awarded for the fifth Canadian victory, that of 1889. This design was suggested by Lieut.-Col. Thos. Bacon, Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, who had the good fortune to command the team; and it will be recognized as strikingly appropriate.

It consists, as will be seen, of an Elephant surmounted by the Imperial Crown—indicative of Imperial India. The clasp, which bears the words "Kolapore—Wimbledon, 1889," is surmounted by a tiger, another Indian emblem. The stripes of the connecting ribbon are dark blue, orange and crimson. The medals are of gold, and of excellent workmanship; they were made under the direction of Mr. C. A. Olmstead, working jeweller, of Sparks street, Ottawa, and were only a few weeks ago delivered to the Association. On the reverse side of each medal there is inscribed the name of the person to whom it is presented.

Just as membership in the Twenty is the great ambition of the participants at the Ottawa meeting, so each member of that Twenty strives to prove himself worthy of a place on the Eight to shoot for the Kolapore cups. The selection is in a measure arbitrary, but the Commandant, in whose hands the choice rests, usually abides by the result of the shooting already made at Wimbledon and at the previous practices in England, in determining at least the first five or six of the eight. These chosen, and there being perhaps half a dozen or more about equally matched from whom to select the other two or three, preference is generally given to the tried hands, who, having already participated in such contests, are best calculated to maintain their nerve until the end. The following were the champions of 1889, in the order of their shooting in the Grand Aggregate:—

1. Qr.-Mr.-Sgt. J. Ogg, 1st B.F.A., Guelph.
2. Lieut. J. A. Wilson, 33rd Bn., Seaforth.
3. Stf.-Sgt. Thos. Mitchell, 10th Royal Grenadiers, Toronto.
4. Capt. S. Maynard Rogers, 43rd Bn., Ottawa.
5. Pte. J. A. Armstrong, G.G.F.G., Ottawa.
6. Major B. A. Weston, 66th Bn., Halifax.
7. Stf.-Sgt. R. McVittie, 10th Royal Grenadiers, Toronto.
8. Stf.-Sgt. Wm. Ashall, Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto.

A better team than this it would be hard to get together from Canada. Not only was there not a single man of doubtful ability in the

eight, but with one exception they were seasoned veterans, accustomed to shoot in the most trying and important contests. There were teams entered from Jersey and Guernsey, but the contest lay, as has always been the case, between Canada and the Mother Country, the last named represented by eight men of world-wide reputation. The details of the match are old news; suffice it to say that Canada took three points lead at 200 yards (245 and 242); gained eight points at 500 (238 and 230); and lost as much at 600 (204 and 212), thus winning a close and exciting contest by the three points gained at the first range. The grand totals were 687 and 684. The Canadian score was precisely that with which the Mother Country won the previous year, and it had only been twice surpassed, the best record being 710, made in 1887; and the next 698, in 1883; both by the Mother Country. The scores of Canadian teams formerly victorious were: In 1872, with Snider, 532 (H. P. S. 672); in 1875, with Snider, 635 (H. P. S. 840); in 1881, with Snider, 609; and in 1884, with Martini, 665.

The Canadian victory of 1889 was a source of special pride from, the fact that in this last year of Wimbledon they had repeated the proud achievement of the first team sent thither by the Dominion Association, in 1872. While still engaged in receiving the congratulations of their friends in England, the team were made aware that at home their performance was duly appreciated. The Minister of Militia, Sir Adolphe Caron cabled his congratulations upon their "brilliant success," a like message followed from the Governor-General, Lord Stanley of Preston; and an old friend in far off India, in the person of the Viceroy, the Marquis of Lansdowne, telegraphed "Well done, Canada." Now a few words about the eight men who won the cups, taking them in the order of their scores in this contest:—

1. Pte. J. A. Armstrong has for years been the star shot of a great shooting corps, the Governor-General's Foot Guards. He has been three times at Wimbledon, and time and again has had to decline to go after winning a place on the team, his happy knack of making himself indispensable in business as well as shooting affairs having the effect of keeping him at home. He has twice competed in the final stage of the Queen's. When the Kolapore Cups were last previously won by Canada, in 1884, Pte. (then Staff-Sergt.) Armstrong, was first man in our eight, just as he was in 1889. His score of 89 on the former occasion was the best in the field; and his 91 on the latter was only beaten by Parry, of the English team. Pte. Armstrong has won a place on next

year's team.

2. The name of Quarter-Master Sergeant John Ogg is a household word to all those taking the least interest in Canadian shooting matters, and his face was one of the most familiar on Wimbledon Common where he shot five times; and this year he was found taking part in the inaugural meeting at Bisley, and by for the third time securing a place in the Queen's final hundred stole a march on his friend Armstrong, who had previously tied with him for the best Canadian record for entry into this match. When Canada won the cups in 1881, Sergt. (then Wheeler) Ogg was one of the eight. He is an Artilleryman, but the 1st Brigade of Field Artillery, of Guelph, to which he belongs, is formidable with the rifle as well as with the big guns. He also has won a place on next year's team.

3. Staff-Sergt. Wm. Ashall, of the Queen's Own Rifles, has been four times at Wimbledon. He has a well established reputation as a reliable team shot; and at Wimbledon, on the occasion under review, he earned special notice in the London *Times*, by skilfully putting together

