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THE BISLEY TEAM.

It is common talk that the command of next year's Bisley team has been as good as promised to a gentleman whose sole qualification is that he is a Member of Parliament on the right side of politics, and the several deserving aspirants are accordingly vexed. It is natural that they should be, and if their vexation take an aggressive form they may count upon the sympathy and co-operation of the great body of the members of the Dominion Rifle Association.

The gentleman in question holds a commission in the militia, but is not in any way identified with rifle shooting, and his corps is never heard of on any of the rifle ranges—a certain indication that the officers take no interest in this branch of military training; and, we should think, an insuperable barrier to the choice of one of them to fill a post coveted by every shooting officer in the Dominion. He is not entitled to nor should he receive any favour from the Dominion Rifle Association simply because he is a Member of Parliament.

The choice of the team officers is by courtesy left to the Chairman of Council, by vote of the members at the annual meeting, and the Chairman in turn usually confers with the Minister of Militia before making his decision. While it is natural that they should favour a Parliamentary colleague, they should be careful that the object of such favour is a person acceptable to those for whom they act. Otherwise the discontinuance of the present system will assuredly follow, with the unfortunate result that the choice of officers will become a matter of canvass and contention at the annual meeting.

Incidentally, we might here venture the opinion that the usefulness of a military member ceases, so far as the general interests of the force are concerned, when he yields to the temptation to use his position to secure personal favours, in all probability making them the price of his independence.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DUTY DONE.

A friendly critic, writing in the *Dominion Illustrated*, takes exception to the circumstance that, according to our report of the recent parade of the militia in connection with the Hull strike, Col. Anderson in dismissing the men "complimented them on their good behaviour" while on duty. Here is a quotation:

"Why shouldn't our militiamen behave well? And why should they be complimented on it when they do? There is something puerile—fine-ladyish—about it that ill accords with that manly attitude of mind that one expects from a man, and that would make such a compliment an insult if looked at from the highest stand-point of duty—the Nelson

stand-point for instance. I hope Col. Anderson and his men will take this remark as it is meant, and as no reflection on them. The habit of complimenting each other for doing our duty is becoming altogether too common in all positions of public life, and reminds one of the old proverb—'too sweet to be wholesome.'"

The critic is a lady, Mrs. S. A. Curzon, the talented Toronto correspondent of the paper named, and mother of the late Staff Sergeant Curzon, in his lifetime a model militiaman. It will be realized, then, that hers is a sympathetic and not an unfriendly interest in the subject. Perhaps we should gracefully yield the point, and confess a mis-quotation of Col. Anderson's remarks. If, instead of the compliment reported, the Colonel rather expressed his appreciation of the spirit in which orders had been obeyed, how would that sound?

While he is not given to soft speech, those who have served under Col. Anderson have found him ever disposed to overlook an unwitting fault and alert to observe faithful performance of duty. When at daybreak he paraded his force before marching off to Hull, he made a terse address pointing out the serious nature of the duty which might have to be performed, should the comparative host of two thousand strikers determine to resort to violence, and he especially cautioned the men against resenting or noticing in any way any slight that might be offered them. His instructions were carried out to the letter, no offence was given on either side, and having acted strictly according to their motto of "Defence, not defiance," the militia earned the respect of all concerned. For many of those in the ranks this was their first parade except for drill or pleasure, and it was surely fitting that these especially should be told that in the eyes of their superior officer they had properly conceived and performed their duty.

The valedictory of the gallant officer who raised the banner regiment of Western Ontario—the Twenty-first Essex Fusiliers—is published in another place in this issue. Lt. Col. Wilkinson will be a decided loss to the Regiment, and knowing his record we feel sure that the separation has caused him a severe pang. It was at the time of the North-West troubles of 1885 that he received permission to raise the 21st, and quickly surrounding himself with officers to whom his own enthusiasm seemed to have been imparted, Col. Wilkinson soon found himself at the head of a battalion second to none in the district. At every camp since then the Fusiliers have distinguished themselves for aptitude and proficiency at drill. When the Military Rifle League was established last year, he was invited to represent his district on the executive and he so interested himself that his corps