

The limited number of competitors at the provincial meeting, may not only be accounted for, I think, by the fact that counties, as a rule, only send forward their best shots ; but also, it will be observed, that of fourteen counties in New Brunswick, but five held county matches.

The obvious advantages of having many well-organized County Rifle Associations are great. Steps have been taken by the Council of the Provincial Association to facilitate the accomplishment of this important object which has already been attended with good results.

I gladly advert to one county—Northumberland—in which, thanks in a great measure to local energy, the large sum of \$229 was offered in prizes, and competed for within the year at rifle matches, conducted under excellent rules.

I respectfully suggest that it be intimated to the secretaries of the Provincial and County Rifle Associations respectively, at as early a date as possible, as to the amount granted by the Government for this service, to enable those officers to make preparations for holding the competition at the most convenient season.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from expressing myself as much concerned at the resignation of his position at the head of the Provincial Rifle Association, of our worthy President, Colonel J. V. Thurgar, who, since the formation of the Association, has earnestly exerted himself in its behalf.

It is, however, satisfactory to know that he is succeeded by a no less energetic officer, Lieut.-Colonel B. L. Peters ; and, under his control and that of an efficient council, the Association will, I am confident, prosper.

#### SUGGESTIONS.

In accordance with your instructions, I recently submitted when furnishing you with a detailed account of duties, some suggestions for the better government of the force, from the staff officers of my district and myself. The following points, amongst others, were touched upon :—

1. The number of days for which drill pay is authorized being decided by Parliament, I recommended that some inducements be held out to volunteers—those residing both in town and country—to perform additional drills, weekly, if possible ; in fact, some mark of recognition of such services, with a view to prepare them for the annual training, and enable them to maintain efficiency.

Under the old law for the Militia of New Brunswick, effective volunteers, those in cities and towns, were allowed exemption from taxes to the amount of \$6, those in the country exemption from road work. Is it not perfectly just thus to tax more heavily those who refrain from taking part in the duty of defence ?

The obvious benefit to be derived from such a system of extra drills, carefully and regularly conducted throughout the year, is great, increased efficiency is attained, discipline enforced, the men learn to trust implicitly in their officers, and the officers seek the welfare of the men.

2. With the view to meet more fully the convenience of volunteers as to the period