

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Comment and Criticism.

WE have been requested to announce that the entry forms for the Dominion Rifle Association competition commencing on the 29th inst., are now ready, and will be forwarded by the secretary, Lieut.-Col. Bacon, Militia Department, Ottawa, to all applicants. The association offer a very generous prize list this year, and the entries ought to be more numerous than ever before.

THE adjutant general, Col. Powell, has received intimation of the death of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Ranald John McDonell, paymaster and superintendent of stores for Military District No. 11, British Columbia. His death occurred at Victoria, on Monday evening. The deceased had formerly been an officer in the regular army, holding a lieutenancy in the 28th. Having removed to British Columbia, he was in 1874 appointed superintendent of stores and in 1879 paymaster as well.

THE deplorable accident which occurred at Toronto a few weeks ago, whereby a young boy in a boat on the lake was killed by a stray bullet fired from the ranges at Garrison Common, caused the temporary renewal of the agitation for the closing of the ranges which has been indulged in by those anxious to secure the ground for park and exhibition ground purposes. It may, however, be relied upon that the ranges will not be closed. No other place so convenient could possibly be found, and, therefore, different means will be taken to prevent the likelihood of another such accident.

LIKE the National association, the Scottish artillery association find it impossible to send out a team as had been proposed to participate in the competition to be held under the auspices of the Dominion Artillery Association, at the Island of Orleans, commencing on the 5th of next month. Capt. Donaldson, secretary of the D.A.A., has just received a letter from the secretary of the Scottish association making the announcement, and expressing regret that circumstances have arisen to necessitate the postponement of the visit. The Canadian artillerymen will, we feel sure, all join with us in hoping that it is only a postponement, and that next year or on some other occasion in the near future Canada may again have the pleasure of welcoming a team from the mother country.

TO their credit be it said, the Canadian riflemen who visit Wimbledon are much more particular about their dress abroad than when at the Dominion competitions. One accustomed to the *deshabille* which always prevails at Rideau ranges will be apt to look twice to see if he be reading correctly the following paragraph from the *Volunteer Service*

*Gazette*: "We again this year call attention to the excellent example set at Wimbledon by the Colonial and Indian volunteers to their English comrades in the matter of soldierlike appearance. Whether scarlet, blue, green, or 'khaki' is worn, we are sorry to say that if a particularly smart looking fellow is seen on the Common he generally turns out to be a Canadian militiaman or an Indian or South African volunteer."

OUR chaps will have to keep a sharp watch on these same South African volunteers. It is all very well to have the mother country appropriate the Kolapore cups four times out of every five competitions, but it is a different matter if the other colonies are going to commence to shoot better than Canada, and take the £80 prize from our team as well as occasionally the cups. For the first time, the Cape had this year a team entered, and as will be seen by the scores published in another place in this issue, took third place with only two points less than the total of the Canadians, who were second. The Cape men seem to be exceedingly reliable shots. There was only one "miss" recorded for this team in the three ranges of the Kolapore cup match, and this was the second shot at 600 yards of a man who had come back with the high total of 61 for the two preceding ranges. The mother country team alone made no misses. Canada had five.

ATTENTION might well be given to the suggestions of our correspondent "E. B. B.," an interesting letter from whom appears elsewhere in this issue. It will hardly be disputed that something should be done in the way of offering greater inducements to competitors from a distance, and it should be equally clear that Ottawa, which derives a great deal of benefit consequent upon being the headquarters of the D. R. A. and the place where the matches are annually held, should contribute substantially towards the prize list. In this one sees a long array of bankers' prizes, but turning to the resolution thanking the donors notes with surprise that the Bank of Ottawa does not appear as one of the leading financial institutions generously contributing towards the funds of the association. In explanation one is told that the charter of the bank makes no provision for gifts of this nature. By all means let the difficulty be removed. The gallant officers in parliament ought to have no difficulty in securing the necessary authority for the bank, which then would have the opportunity to handsomely head the subscription list which should be annually passed round in Ottawa for the Dominion Rifle Association.

THE English volunteers must hereafter pay more attention to shooting and become reasonably efficient in this respect in order to obtain the government grant. The status of both individuals and regiments will be determined by their shooting abilities rather than as heretofore exclusively by knowledge of or attendance at drill. In this connection Capt. Heath, of the 21st Middlesex R.V., has just issued a pamphlet entitled "Shooting vs. Drill," in which he says: "There can be no question that those volunteers who, from neglect of opportunity or want of it, cannot shoot straight are being clothed, drilled and commanded to no purpose, and are really only fit for camp, commissariat or fatigue