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A COMMUNICATION signed "Ramrod" has been received this week, addressed to the Editor of this paper and intended for publication. But the author has not made his identity known to us, and until this has been done we cannot publish his communication.

BY a printers' error in the statement published last week of the prize winners at this year's monthly matches of the Montreal Rifle Association, the third aggregate prize wrongly appears opposite the name of Mr. H. A. Brocklesby, instead of in the next line, for the winner was Mr. W. Brown. Those who file and bind their copies of this paper should make the correction in the table, now; they will not think of this paragraph when at some future time they refer to the table for information.

MESSRS. P. W. Ellis & Co., of Toronto, have just entered into a contract with the Dominion Rifle Association for the manufacture of the large number of silver medals annually distributed by that body, and which hitherto have been made in England. The samples shewn by the enterprising firm above named were fully equal to the imported article, and the Association after seeing them had no hesitation in deciding that the work should for the future be done in Canada. We congratulate the firm, whom we are happy to number amongst our advertisers.

EXCEPTION has been taken by the *Mail*, of Toronto, in a recent issue, to the annual increase of expenditure by the Dominion Government, and amongst the appropriations criticised is that for Militia and Defence, in the following words: "The Military Department is becoming annually more expensive. For 1886 its expenditure was \$1,178,000, as against \$660,000 five years ago; and Sir Adolphe Caron now makes it a boast that when the London Infantry School is open we will increase the strength of our standing army to one thousand men, as if the increase would cost us nothing." Now, why should the increase "cost us nothing"? And why should not the Minister of Militia boast about the increased efficiency of the force under his charge? Has the country not received value for the increased expenditure for militia purposes, and is not Sir Adolphe Caron entitled to commendation for having impressed upon the Government and upon Parliament the necessity for a larger appropriation for his department? It would be a good thing if the ratio of increase for the past five years would be maintained for many years to come. The investment would be a wise one. We have written to our Toronto correspondent to ascertain if it is not the case that some one lately apprenticed to *Grip* has reformed and joined the *Mail* staff. If the critic really meant it all, our advice to

him is that he should ask the business manager how the expenditure of the *Mail* establishment in 1887 compared with that five years previously.

ENLISTMENT for the new school of infantry, at London, Ont., will be commenced very shortly. The strength will be the same as that of the other schools—one hundred. Information has been received at the department that the barracks are about ready for occupation.

WHILE at Victoria, B.C., the Minister of Militia decided upon the site for the permanent barracks for "C" Battery, and came to terms with the owners of the land required. Tenders for construction were at once advertised for in the local papers. The site chosen is opposite Victoria on the other side of the arm of the sea which makes that city a port, and is near the entrance to the harbour. The highway between Victoria and Esquimalt runs conveniently close to the site chosen for the barracks. Surveying operations in connection with the fortifications to be erected by the Imperial Government at Esquimalt are being carried on by a detachment of Royal Engineers, in charge of Lieut. J. I. Laing, a graduate in 1883 of our own Royal Military College. Having accepted an Imperial commission, Lieut. Laing became attached to the Royal Engineers, and now has the welcome opportunity of turning to practical account, for the benefit of Canada, the excellent training he received at the Military College, and since largely supplemented by his experience at the British War Office.

The United States War Department.

THE annual report of the Secretary of War, presented at the opening of the first session of the fiftieth congress of the United States, convened at Washington on the 5th inst., proves highly interesting, as well for the information it contains, as far the recommendations made. Out of the total estimate of \$326,530,793 which Congress is asked to vote for 1889, the War Department requires \$55,481,418, and the Navy Department \$23,408,940. These figures might well be pondered over by the critics of Canada's expenditure for defensive purposes—and it must be remembered that the fifty-five millions mentioned above is exclusive of the expenditure on what corresponds in the United States to our volunteer militia. The appropriation is thus divided: Salaries and contingent expenses, \$1,903,585.00; military establishment, army and military academy, \$25,689,615.73; public works, including river and harbour improvements, \$22,339,151.20; miscellaneous objects, \$3,406,358.31; total, \$53,338,710.24.

The necessity for a large and thoroughly efficient artillery force is fully recognised, in marked contrast to the apathy shown by Canada with respect to this branch of the service. Of General Schofield's recommendation that each artillery post be furnished with the means for instruction in modern ordnance, the Secretary says: "The recommendation of General Schofield is a very important one. In no branch of the service is technical instruction and daily experiments and practice in the use of its weapons more demanded than in the artillery. Infantry can be rapidly organized and soon made serviceable; but the trained and well-instructed artillery soldier, whether officer or enlisted man, is only obtained by long and patient work. It is earnestly hoped that, if guns