

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Topics of the Week.

A supplementary list of Wimbledon prizes published in the *Volunteer Service Gazette* of the 4th of August, to hand this week, shows another Canadian prize—Capt. McMicking, of the 44th Bn., having taken twentieth place in a revolver competition, making 28 out of 36 possible, and winning £2. The conditions of the match are not at hand, but these revolver competitions are wholly different to those we are accustomed to in Canada. Hence the apparently low score to come in.

Major-General D. R. Cameron, lately appointed to succeed Major-General J. R. Oliver in the command of the Royal Military College, Kingston, arrived from England this week, and proceeded direct to the College. In another place in this issue we reprint, in all its wealth of detail, a sketch of his public career, at the outset at least marked by stirring events calculated to test the mettle of the officer. The favour he won in the Imperial service may best be judged by the importance of the commands in late years conferred upon him.

As will be seen from the advertisement appearing in another column, entries for the Ontario Rifle Association prize meeting opening on the 27th inst., should be received not later than Wednesday next, the 22nd. The programme is the usual one, excellently varied, and with the prize money so distributed as not to fall mainly into the hands of a few fortunate if also exceedingly skilful competitors. All the aggregate matches will be fired with the Snider rifle; but the Gibson match is as usual provided for the Martini, for which also there are extra series competitions at 500 and 600 yards. There are two provincial competitions in progress this week—the Nova Scotia, opening on Tuesday; and the Manitoba, with Wednesday as the opening day. The New Brunswick matches open on the 28th inst.

"The 1888 ammunition is proving very satisfactory to us," is the rather superfluous sentence with which a Bowmanville correspondent concludes a letter containing the particulars of the best score chronicled this season, which was made at Bowmanville on Monday last by Capt. W. S. Russell, one of Canada's crack shots, and twice a member of the Wimbledon team. Starting with the respectable score of 31 at the

kneeling position at 200 yards, Capt. Russell added a possible (35) at 500, and put on 33 at 600, winding up with the splendid total of 99 out of 105. It is at 600 yards especially that this year's ammunition shows its superiority over the Canadian make of all former years. There now appears to be absolutely no ground of complaint; and in the opinion of many the Dominion product is even superior to the English ammunition formerly used. Examination of several packages made by an expert at Ottawa, has shown that there is not more than one grain variation in the powder charge, whilst four grains were allowed in the English. And the riflemen's expostulations and advice having at last been heeded, the desired alteration has now been made in the shape of the bullet, enabling it to travel in conformity with the rule for riflemen: "head to the target."

We clip from a French military paper: "The 2nd Batt. of Chasseurs a pied in France (which correspond to our English rifle regiments) performed the other day quite a marching feat. They left Luneville at 2 a.m. in full marching order, and arrived at Nancy at 9.30 a.m.; were reviewed by Generals Bosdemetz and Quenot, and were back again in Luneville, band and bugles playing, at 8 p.m., having covered, on the march alone, 38 miles. It is estimated that the battalion marched that day from 44 to 48 miles." Pretty good marching this. What enthusiasm there must have been amongst the men to sustain them!

The London *Times* describes a useful adjunct to the hospital department of the army in a refrigerator for field use with the army on service. It is devised by Dr. F. W. Chapin, and is an adaptation of the "Eureka" refrigerator, in which the chemical agent used is nitrate of ammonia, this having the property of rapidly cooling any liquid to which it is added. The nitrate is recoverable from the solution by evaporation, and can be used over and over again without sensible loss. The apparatus consists of two collapsible india-rubber buckets, one of which contains a coil of Indian tubing. This coil is placed in one of the buckets and is immersed in the nitrate of ammonia solution. The water to be cooled is passed through the coil, and is rapidly cooled and forms a supply for drinking and other purposes. For refrigerating purposes and for making ice, some of the water which has already been cooled is run into the second bucket, the nitrate of ammonia is added to it, forming the freezing mixture. When the solution is exhausted, it is removed for evaporation. The field refrigerator is collapsible, and when open and in use it measures three feet by two feet by one foot six inches; closed for transport its dimensions are three feet by ten inches by one foot six inches, and its weight is under one hundred pounds when packed with a sufficient quantity of nitrate of ammonia for four days' use. One of these field refrigerators is said to be capable of producing five pounds of ice per hour, and of cooling eight gallons of water to a temperature of between 30° and 40° Fahrenheit during the same period.