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NOTE AND COMMENT.

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE wishes all its readers A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year ; and takes this opportunity of expressing to the many friends who have sent holiday greetings, the Editor's appreciation of the kind spirit prompting them.

"Canadian Military Life" is the subject of a very interesting paper in the current number of the *National Review*, written by a correspondent, "Edward Parker," who gives the impressions received during a recent visit to the Dominion. The article is in narrative form, purporting to be the gist of a conversation at an officers' gathering on the anniversary of Batoche, at a "town" not named, but seemingly Winnipeg. The visitor's questioning brought out the weak as well as the strong points of our system, and the military resources and expenditure of the Dominion rather suffer by comparison with the Australian figures. The Mounted Police come in for high praise as a valuable adjunct to the militia, especially in connection with the North West rebellion. The closing paragraph of the article is one which will be read with general interest and appreciation, and in the minds of those who know our Adjutant-General will stamp Mr. Parker as a man of good judgment, when he puts this closing toast in the mouth of a member of Parliament: "There is one toast that should never be forgotten where members of the Canadian Militia are gathered together. I propose the health of one whom all militiamen honour, all politicians respect, and the country values--- Adjutant-General Walker Powell."

A commendably cheerful spirit is shown by the council of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association, in their annual report just presented, in which they make the best of a state of affairs sufficient to discourage men of less energy and determination. It will be noted, in the recommendations submitted, that an endeavour is to be made to introduce new methods next year with a view to re-awakening interest in the Association, which seems to have of late been losing its grip on the shooting men of the outlying districts of the Province, whilst at Montreal, the association headquarters, the closing of the city ranges has appreciably lessened the interest in all shooting affairs.

It is none too soon that the free lunch plan is to be altered, for while there may have been no formal complaints there certainly has been a great deal of criticism in private, on the part of the rank and file, over the fact that in addition to exempting from drill qualifications officers entering as competitors, they were further favoured by

having a grand lunch furnished to them at the expense of the whole association, while those who were not officers had to put up with the rather second class fare supplied by caterers quite aware that their patrons would consist of few besides the rank and file, and took liberties accordingly. There was in this matter a substantial, as well as a sentimental, grievance which would have found expression long ago had suitable opportunity offered. At last the matter was taken up by an officer having pronounced ideas as to the equal rights of all competitors to the privileges of the rifle range, and it was at once conceded that the practice should be stopped.

The council should be encouraged in their attempt to arouse interest in the association by means of a public presentation of the prizes. It is notorious, however, that the presentations of the past--at Ottawa as well as at Montreal--have disastrously failed of their object ; this being mainly because the public do not understand the significance of the rifle shooting events, and no scheme for creating an intelligent interest has yet been devised. Perhaps if a beginning were made with the non-shooting members (the great majority) of the corps whose headquarters are where the presentation is to take place, and it were made part of their duty to parade in full force to honour their shooting champions, the effect upon the public would be so gratifying as to prove the experiment well worth trying.

A very interesting report appearing in the *Volunteer Service Gazette* to hand this week, of the annual dinner of the Admiralty (H) Company of the Civil Service Rifles, brings forcibly to mind, in contrast, the discouragement shown by our First Lord of the Admiralty to volunteer soldiering on the part of members of his department of the Canadian Civil Service. In England, thanks to the official encouragement given, the Civil Service Rifles is one of the best regiments in the volunteer service. At the dinner above alluded to, Col. Mills, their commanding officer, referred with pride to the large number of distinguished Civil Servants who had served with the volunteers, and told how he had succeeded in obtaining a large number of handsome subscriptions from various Cabinet Ministers and permanent Heads of Departments in aid of the regimental headquarters now being erected by the Rifles. It is evidently well recognized in England that Government employees who spend their spare time in volunteering are apt thereby not only to make themselves additionally valuable in time of trouble, but also in peace time to form habits and associations increasing rather than lessening their value to the Civil Service.

THE P.Q.R.A. COUNCIL REPORT.

The following is the annual report of the Council of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, just presented:—

In submitting the twenty-third annual report of the working of the Association, your Council have to congratulate the members on a fairly successful year. The thanks of the Association are due to both old and new friends for subscriptions both in money and kind, a list of which will be found at the end of the report. While thanking those who so kindly aided us in the past, we would call the attention of the members to the large number of merchants and others who should subscribe to the funds, but have not done so. Some means should be devised to reach these, and the finance committee ought to take this matter up.

Early in the season a deputation of members of this Association, and of the amalgamated rifle associations, waited on the hon. Minister of Militia, and obtained the appointment of a new caretaker, Mr. Robert Allan; also the promise of the necessary repairs to the ranges. The Association altered last year's telephone system, and laid down four new lines, giving a separate telephone service to each section of targets. A new system of the division of targets was also adopted, and with these improvements, the range is now in first-class shape, and the competitors at the matches report the working as most satisfactory.

We believe the Minister has authorized the cleaning of the drains and target pits; also the fitting up of the 800 and 900 yards targets, which will be very much appreciated next season. A very important item, however, is still wanting, viz., a caretaker's house. Owing to the ranges being situated in a comparatively out of the way place, a house for the caretaker is an absolute necessity, in order that the property of the department and of the different Montreal regiments should be preserved from wanton destruction. The cost of the house, with well, etc., would be a comparatively small amount, and the benefits to the range and the Militia force largely increased. Numbers of the Montreal regiments would go to the ranges over night to obtain early morning practice, had they the convenience of meals and lodging, which the caretaker's house could afford them.

In the absence of the Secretary, who had gone over to England as Adjutant of the Bisley team, Mr. Elliott was appointed Assistant Secretary, and Major Bond, chairman of the executive committee, kindly undertook the detail of the working of the matches. Lieutenant-Col. Matrice was executive officer. The range officers were: Major Hodgins, Capt. Manley, Capt. Oswald and Lieut. D'Orsonnens. Camp Quartermaster was Capt. D'Orsonnens. The programme was drawn up to last four days, closing at 4.15 on Friday, 14th August.

The executive committee decided to increase the number of men in the teams for the Carslake Cup to fifteen, but finding that a large number of the competitors were opposed to it, they reduced the number again to ten. The Frontier match, series "B," was altered, by charging an entrance fee of 25 cents, and arranging that a competitor could take a prize in each series. The Merchants' was restored to the programme, making it a ten shot match at 600 yards, M.H. rifle. Sighting shots were again introduced, competitors being allowed one at each range, at a charge of 10 cents each.

There was a large falling off in the entries as compared with last year, the total being 1,636 individual, against 2,021 for last year, and 28 teams against 47, the largest number of entries in any one match being 129 in the Frontier, against 174 in same match, and 383 in the extra series, 600 yards, as against 430 in the 500 yards last year. No apparent cause can be said to have effected the large shortage in the number of the competitors this year, but the dropping away of several of the regimental teams, notably, the 8th Royal Rifles, of Quebec, the Prince of Wales Rifles, of this city,

and the Governor General's Foot Guards, Ottawa, would account at once for thirty of the individual entries short in each match.

Some of the council are of the opinion that the large number of league and regimental matches now taking place in the early part of the season prevents any ordinary practice for men who are not shooting on the teams, and brings up a question which will shortly force itself on the attention of the Montreal Brigade, viz., the necessity of increased second and third class target accommodation on the ranges. This want has been felt for the past two seasons, and will probably be still more noticeable the coming year. At least ten more second and third class targets are required, to afford the necessary accommodation for the nine regiments now practising every Saturday on the Cote St. Luc ranges.

A suggestion has also been thrown out, that the date of the annual matches should be changed, and that they be held the second week in July, instead of the second week in August, as heretofore. The council do not recommend this, but leave it to the consideration of the new officers and council.

The ammunition furnished by the Militia department continues to give good satisfaction to the competitors.

A motion was passed at the competitors meeting, suggesting to council that the lunch at present furnished by the Association to the field officers be done away with; your council would recommend that this suggestion be adopted.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, with their usual courtesy, furnished a prompt and efficient train service during the matches.

To the statistical officer, Lieut.-Col. D. T. Fraser, great credit is due for the squadding and timing of the competitors. The new system of separating competitors from the same battalion throughout the matches was carried out most successfully.

We have 68 individual members, and 14 affiliated associations, having gained "A" Company, 43rd Battalion, Ottawa, and lost G. T. R. Rifle Association, Toronto R.A., 85th Battalion R.A., 45th Battalion R.A., Q. O. R. R. A., Hemmingford R.A., Sherbrooke R.A. We are very much pleased to see competitors from the 55th Battalion, 86th Battalion, 56th and 59th Battalions, and hope they will come in larger numbers next year.

Your council are still of the opinion that with the usual number of competitors which they trust to see the coming year, that it will take four days to carry out the programme successfully, and would recommend the incoming council to give it another trial.

There was no public presentation of prizes this year, but on Wednesday a large number of friends visited the grounds during the afternoon, where they were received by Mrs. E. L. Bond, on behalf of the executive committee. Major-General Herbert and Capt. Streatfeild arrived on the grounds shortly before 12 o'clock, accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Houghton.

The General made a careful inspection of the whole range, including the butts, cook houses, shelter sheds, etc., and expressed himself as quite satisfied with all the arrangements as far as completed. During the afternoon the ranges were also visited by Admiral Conville, and the captain and officers of the French man-of-war Bisson, who, under the guidance of the General and the members of the executive, took a warm interest in the shooting, and general arrangements of the competition.

This year has been a little difficult in the matter of money. There was a considerable expenditure required to put the ranges in order, (\$451). Owing to the lateness of the season, there was delay in payment of the Dominion grant, and there was a marked falling off in entries, (\$333). In consequence of this, some of our executive committee had to provide money on their own responsibility, and our thanks are due for their prompt assistance.

We received the usual Government grants and private subscriptions. The affiliations and memberships together produce about the same as last year, but revenue from entries is reduced, as already stated, \$333.

The expenditure for the matches shows a reduction of \$50 for employes, also a similar reduction in the council tents and other expenses. The printing account is somewhat increased owing to payment of some accounts belonging to last year. The permanent work has cost \$451 during the year; this will, of course, not be required to be made again. The other items do not require comment. The balance on hand is \$180.10, with all accounts of every description paid and the ranges in good order. Our only liability is to those members of the executive committee who have advanced us the necessary money to place us in this position. We still have to regret the smallness of the individual membership, and that our subscription is, with one or two exceptions, confined to the city of Montreal.

In conclusion we would commend the following items to the attention of the incoming council, viz. :—

1. The changing of the date of the annual matches from the second week of August to the second week in July.
2. To allow unlimited team entries in all team matches.
3. To improve the value of the extra series prizes.
4. To drop providing lunch for officials and visiting officers at the expense of the association.
5. To increase the individual membership.
6. To increase the collections from the public.
7. To make more prominent every year the "At Home" or public presentation of prizes, which is the only method of interesting the general public in the doings of the association.

REGIMENTAL.

A despatch from London, Ont., says:—Col Tracey, commanding officer of the Seventh Battalion, is at present on a six months' leave of absence at Vancouver, B. C., where he is now city engineer. The probability is the colonel will remain at the coast, and consequently the members of the battalion have for some time back been agitated over the question of a new commander. Several names of well-known officers have been brought forward in this connection, but that of Capt. Payne, the oldest officer in the battalion, has been most popular. It is now stated on good authority that he will be shortly gazetted to the position. He will devote all his energy to putting new life into the regiment. Capt. Payne, it may be added, is the only officer in the battalion duly qualified to take the position of colonel.

Capt. Ira Morgan, of No. 7 Company, 56th Battalion, Metcalte, Ont., died in Ottawa on Saturday last, the result of an accident the previous evening. He attempted to board an electric car at the front end, where the door was closed and fastened, and losing his grip on the hand rail fell in front of the car. The steps passed over his body, breaking several ribs and the spinal column. The car was barely moving at the time, and travelled only about five feet before being stopped. Capt. Morgan was reeve of Osgoode Township, an office he had held continuously for about twenty years, and was in Ottawa to attend the regular meeting of the Carleton County Council. He had on several occasions been elected Warden of the County, and was very prominently identified with its agricultural interests. Capt. Morgan had held his captaincy for twenty-one years. He was 63 years of age.

Lieut.-Col. David Wylie, of Brockville, died on Monday morning. He was widely known as the father of the Canadian press, and was probably the oldest newspaper man in the Dominion. He was born at Johnstone, Scotland, on

the 23rd March, 1811, and possessed a full share of the perseverance and energy characteristic of his race. He worked for a time on English and Scotch newspapers, including the famous *Anti-Corn Law Circular*, promoted by Cobden and Bright, and the principles he imbibed under such training appear to have stuck to him through life. In 1845 he accepted an offer from Mr. John C. Becket, of Montreal, in charge of whose office he remained until 1849. In that year he served as parliamentary reporter for the Montreal *Herald* until the burning of the parliament buildings, in which that other old veteran, Alfred Perry, figured. In 1850, Mr. Wylie undertook editorial control of the Brockville *Recorder*, which he retained till 1883. For forty years he was a member of the school board, and for more than thirty years of this period he filled the position of chairman. He was at different times president and poet of the Canadian Press Association. In 1847 Mr. Wylie joined Capt. Lyman's rifle company in Montreal, and served through every grade from private to that of lieutenant-colonel. In 1875 he received the appointment of military paymaster of District No. 4, which he held until the office was consolidated with that of another district. He was also treasurer of the town of Brockville for many years. For the last year his health has been so bad that he could not leave the house. The old veteran will be followed to the grave with many regrets. His was a remarkable career in many ways, and brought him deservedly the respect of his fellow-men.

THEIR SILVER WEDDING.

Sergt.-Major Cox, of the Royal Grenadiers, and Mrs. Cox celebrated their silver wedding on Friday evening at their residence, No. 6 Denison Square. They were married in London, Ontario, 25 years ago by Rev. J. A. Dickson, of the Congregational Church in that city, while the 16th regiment of British regulars, to which the sergt.-major belonged, was stationed there. A large number of beautiful and costly presents were received from Hamilton, London, Toronto, and other towns in Canada by the quarrier century bride and groom who, by the way, do not look much older than their eldest daughter and certainly not old enough to be celebrating 25 years of married life. Mr. Cox, after having welcomed his friends to his table, stated that the silver-mounted carvers which would then be used for the first time, had been in his possession over three years, and were presented to him by the staff-sergeants of the First Jersey regiment on the eve of his departure from that island. After the table had been considerably eased of its load, games, music and singing were indulged in until an early hour in the morning, when the party separated, expressing the wish that Mr. and Mrs. Cox might be spared to celebrate their golden wedding. The undernamed accepted invitations and were present at supper with Mr. and Mrs. Cox: Mr. J. W. Hickson (brother of Mrs. Cox) and Mr. Hickson, Mr. and Mrs. Bewley, Misses A. and D. Carroll, Miss Amelia Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Ewart, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Forsyth, Mr. George and Miss Harrington, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. A. and Misses S. and M. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. G. Parkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe and Mr. A. Taylor.—*Empire*.

The Duke of Cambridge, in his remarks upon the official reports of the Shoeburyness meeting, regrets that there should again have been a falling off in the detachment attending the camp, and that there is still a want of knowledge evinced as to the proper boring of fuses; but, with these exceptions, His Royal Highness has every reason to be satisfied with the improvement manifested in the practice and exercises, and with the conduct of the camp generally. It is however, to be wished that the fire-discipline competition may be extended in the future.

ATHLETIC

Sports and Pastimes

It has often surprised me that united action has not been taken by the athletic clubs of the Dominion to obtain more favourable terms from the railroad companies than are now accorded, to members of clubs travelling in numbers for different competitions.

The first thing to be ascertained now, when a foreign game is under discussion, is: What will the railway do for us? Will we have to pay full fare, or will it be a fare and a third, or do you not think we can persuade them to grant us a single fare? And unless the club has the good fortune to be at the company's headquarters, there is delay, writing, or telegraphing, to know what is the best rate that may be given; and many a good match has been declared off because of the expense, and trouble trying to lessen it, which if some liberal concession had been granted would have turned money into the coffers of the company, and health with attendant happiness into the lungs and livers of many a good fellow.

I am sure that if proper representations were made by the united associations to the managements of the various railroad companies, a single fare rate for return journeys might be obtained for the members of clubs when travelling for a match in not fewer numbers than seven.

This would be a satisfactory concession, and yet not tax the generosity of the railroads very heavily, as when pressure is brought to bear and time permits it can now be obtained from many points. It would, however, put the matter beyond the necessity of entering into negotiations for, each time a trip was contemplated, and would give all clubs an equal footing.

These terms have been granted to riflemen this year attending the larger meetings, by both Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways, and might be secured by other organizations if represented in sufficiently united manner to the authorities.

I heartily agree with Mr. Logie, of Hamilton, in his opposition to the reduction of the number necessary to constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Rugby Football Union.

In all our sporting associations there is too great a tendency to leave the practical management in the hands of a very few members, all residents of the locality where the headquarters may be established.

Without doubt there is often a difficulty found in gathering a quorum for an executive meeting, but I do not think the proper way out of the difficulty is to be found by reducing the number required to constitute a quorum, but rather in an en-

deavour to ascertain how to obtain better attendance.

One very serious difficulty in the way of many delegates attending executive meetings regularly is, that in many instances they are called upon to defray their own expenses. I do not allude to football only now, but to sporting representatives generally.

This ought not to be. It is decidedly to the advantage of every club to be represented at all important meetings by a member or members of their own club, and these members ought not to be called upon to defray their charges in addition to the sacrifice of their time. The club they represent should pay their expenses.

Another difficulty in the way of getting quorums is the lack of forethought shown by many secretaries in not having a resume of the business to be discussed thoroughly in order before the meeting is called, as well as any possible subjects which may soon need consideration, and which might in many cases be left in shape for the officers or a sub-committee to deal with on a given basis.

If this was thoroughly attended to, the number of meetings called might be considerably lessened, and the business more satisfactorily settled.

I am able to recall meetings of associations, both in Montreal and Toronto, that I have attended, which have adjourned for a week or two, before their business was half completed, for no other reason than that the secretary had called the representatives together before he had his business in order to lay before them.

This is very annoying to outside delegates, and naturally deters many from attending other meetings.

If these two points were attended to, there would not be such difficulty experienced in obtaining quorums, and greater satisfaction with the decisions of executives would prevail.

I am glad to welcome the newly formed—or rather the reorganized—Queen's Own Athletic Association to the sporting clubs of the Dominion.

It ought to be an unqualified success, and with the names mentioned as composing the executive, there cannot be any doubt but that it will be all that can be wished for such an organization—a decided benefit to the regiment, and an acquisition to the list of sporting clubs in the Dominion.

An old athlete himself, the popular Colonel of the Regiment, as Honorary President of the Association may be depended upon to do all in his power to raise it to that high standard which an officer commanding such a well known and thoroughly efficient battalion as the Queen's Own would desire to see attained

by any body claiming association with the regiment under his command.

The advent of a new athletic club in Toronto composed of men so well known as most of the members of the Queen's Own, and who have a bond of union with members of sister corps throughout the Dominion, ought to be a strong factor in aiding fair minded supporters of athletics in the Queen City to relieve their body from the constant reproaches which are being cast upon them of selfishness in regard to all events of a sporting character unless held in the City of Toronto.

That such reproaches are warranted will no doubt be denied by many Torontonians, but unfortunately they are too universally and frequently heard everywhere outside of Toronto, for there to be the slightest reason to believe there is any injustice about them; and the spirit of antagonism which this feeling is arousing against Toronto clubs will undoubtedly bring upon them a heavy day of reckoning.

This feeling when spoken of, is attributed by a portion of the Toronto press, to a sense of jealousy entertained against the Queen City by the other towns of the Province, but this is altogether a mistaken idea, and unless it is done with the deliberate intention of drawing a herring across the trail, is but misleading.

There can be no doubt that a certain portion of the sporting community of Toronto is imbued with a porcine proclivity for endeavouring to centralize everything it is possible to obtain in their midst, irrespective of the feelings of the remainder of the Province, and it is very desirable, in the general interests of athletics throughout the Province, that a more generous spirit in this respect should be introduced.

It is to be hoped the new athletic association may do good work in this respect, and thus be the means of encouraging sport not only among themselves but throughout the Province.

The example set by the "Queen's Own" ought at once to be followed by sister corps throughout the Dominion. Some such bond of union as a well organized athletic association is becoming a necessity to bring together a desirable class of recruits, who will maintain the high standard of efficiency our militia attained some years ago, but which from lack of encouragement, or rather from continued discouragement from quarters where it ought least to be expected, it is rapidly deteriorating from.

At the present moment there is but one inducement for a man to remain in the militia—boys may still be readily obtained—and that is the rifle.

Hundreds of the best members of the

force are only retained by the interest they take in the rifle and rifle matches.

If regimental athletic associations are encouraged, these hundreds may readily be increased to thousands.

HOCKEY.

I remarked last week on two unfortunate features of the Ontario Hockey Association meeting. I have this week to call attention to a third, which calls for explanation.

It appears that notices were issued calling the annual meeting of the Association for the evening at the Queen's Hotel. When the representative of the Ottawa Hockey Club—who, by the way, are the champions—arrived at the rendezvous punctually at the appointed time, he learned that the meeting had been held at 4 p.m. that afternoon, although he had not been warned of the change.

Such an action as this calls for very full explanation.

It is not the first time this has happened to an Ottawa representative, and reflects most severely upon the courtesy, if no harsher terms are used, of Toronto office-bearers. I know of an instance last summer where an Ottawa representative was most anxious to attend the meeting of an association, but was prevented by press of business from leaving the city on the date fixed. The meeting was adjourned for a week or ten days, but no notice of the adjournment was given to the Ottawa man, and he lost the opportunity of attending an important meeting, which he would have been glad to go to had he known of it in time.

These things, of course, are but the negligence of individuals, but they reflect upon the community which these individuals represent and ought to be put a stop to.

The advent of clubs in the Hockey arena composed of members of the Queen's Own of Toronto and the Britannia Football Club of Montreal, will add increased interest to the matches of the coming season in both the Ontario and Quebec series. Although my own impression is, it will be found that the qualities which make a man an effective member of a football team, will hardly be those which are most needed on a hockey team.

The Bank of Montreal, Montreal, Hockey team propose visiting Toronto on New Year's Day to play the members of the Dominion Bank for the Canadian Bank Championship.

The Montrealers are bewailing their fate at not having had opportunity for practice, but unless old Probs tightens up very quickly they need not distress themselves, as their game is as likely as not to be played on the boards instead of on ice.

The McGill Hockey Club have elected the following officers for the current season:—President, Mr. Smyth (Arts); Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Irving; Committee of Management, Messrs. Pritchard (Medicine), Davidson (Arts), Primrose (Science), Anderson (Vet. Med.). Mr. T. N. Walsh (Medicine) was elected Captain.

A hockey club has been formed in Cornwall, and with the material which ought to be available in the Factory town the new club is not unlikely to make its influence felt in hockey circles before many seasons are past.

CURLING.

The Governor-General has issued the conditions of competition for his cups, which he generously presents for annual competition to the iron and stone playing clubs of the Dominion.

The rules are the same as last year, but it is to be hoped that the competition will be of a different character, at least as far as the stone players are concerned.

The iron players had keen and exciting contests both in Montreal and Ottawa, the only prominent club missed from the matches being the Quebec, whose absence all regretted. The final match played on the ice of the Rideau Curling Club, between Montreal and Pembroke, aroused the greatest interest, and although all were sorry to see Mr. Miller and his brave laddies lose, the win of the Montreal men was a popular one.

The granite competition did not come off, and the cup was consequently withheld. The Ontario Branch reported their representative as being ready to proceed to Ottawa to meet competitors from any of the other provinces, but as none of the other provincial associations had forwarded the name of a representative to the Secretary of the Governor-General, the match was declared off and the cup withheld.

I think that if the conditions of this competition were more thoroughly understood there would never be a repetition of this lack of representatives from the other provinces.

In the first place, it ought to be understood that it is not obligatory upon the provincial representative in the finals at Ottawa to have been the winner in the primary at home—indeed it is not necessary for there to have been any primary competition at all.

If there has been a competition, and the winning club cannot manage to send their rinks to Ottawa for the finals against the representatives of the other provinces, it is within the power of the branch executive to authorize the last competing club in the primary, or indeed any other club in the province whether in the primary or not, to go to Ottawa and represent the province against the other provinces.

If there has been no primary competition and the Branch is satisfied to name a club worthy of representing it in the finals it is at liberty to do so.

Surely when this is thoroughly understood our Maritime Province and Western curlers will find some clubs who have sufficient confidence in their own strength not to allow Ontario to claim a walk-over.

I have a vivid recollection of a doughty lot of canny curlers from the Bluenose Club, New Glasgow, N. S., who made things hum in the Governor's Cup competition some years ago, who cannot all have given up the roaring game, and some of whom I trust we may see again this year, ready to give Ontario and Manitoba all the work they want.

The curling season at the Capital opened on Friday evening last when the members of the Rideau Curling Club played their first game.

Matches were arranged at both the Ottawa and Rideau Rinks for Saturday, but the soft turn again prevented them from coming off.

I was wrong last week in stating that the annual meeting of the Canadian Branch R. C. C. Club had not been held. The meeting had taken place the week previous, but after the election of officers there was an adjournment made for ten days, as it was discovered that the Branch had been working since its organization without constitution, by-laws or regulations—at least, so the retiring secretary reported.

Could any more conclusive evidence be desired of the justness of my remarks about the careless, indifferent manner in which the affairs of this organization have been allowed to drift along.

I understand the meeting showed an appreciable desire to shake up old bones, the first evidence of which was shown in an effort to distribute the office bearers of the Branch more equally amongst the different clubs instead of confining them all to one or two clubs, as has hitherto frequently been the case.

A new office was created, that of 2nd vice-president, and it was resolved that it should be filled for the current year by a representative from the Ottawa district. The election, however, was deferred until the adjourned meeting.

The officers elected were:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Honorary President | David Brown, Sr., Thistle |
| 1st Vice-President | Jas. Williamson, Montreal |
| 2nd do | Election deferred, Ottawa |
| Chaplain | Rev. Mr. Campbell, St. Lawrence |
| Sec'y-Treasurer | Jas. Rodger, Heather |

The members of the Sherbrooke Curling Club are rejoicing in the possession

of a new rink, which they claim to be the equal of, if not superior to, any curling rink in the Dominion.

I heard a short time ago that curling interests were at a very low ebb throughout the Maritime Provinces owing to financial stringency. Further evidence of the fact appears to be furnished by an advertisement which appears in a Halifax paper by the city collector, announcing the sale for arrears of taxes of the property of the Halifax Curling Club.

As the whole amount due appears to be only \$48.15, including expenses, it is hardly credible the property will be allowed to actually come to sale, but straws show which way the wind blows.

FOOTBALL.

The eighth annual meeting of the Ontario Rugby Football Union was held in Toronto on Saturday, 12th instant.

The report of the committee was of a highly congratulatory nature, which on the whole was not unwarranted, although the tendency seemed to be to ignore any subject but such as could be treated in a laudatory manner.

One item of congratulation was the increase in the number of clubs affiliated—three new clubs in the senior series, and four in the junior series.

Pleasure was expressed at the fact of Ottawa College Club having again joined the union, and in this feeling the committee must be joined by every lover of football throughout the Dominion.

This move on the part of the College has brought about a very rapid and satisfactory solution of the difficulty in regard to the Dominion championship to which we made allusion in our last issue, and we may now hope that if a game is played for the championship next year the winners may fairly lay claim to the title.

It will hardly be admitted by many that the games this year have been more open and consequently faster than hitherto. If the statement made is correct the openness and pace must have increased in such a very small degree as to leave ample room for further improvement in this respect.

The treasurer's statement showed a satisfactory balance on hand, and the report was adopted.

A committee was appointed to represent the Ontario Union at the annual meeting of the Quebec Union with a view to the formation of a Dominion Rugby Union.

Several amendments and alterations to the constitution and by-laws were discussed, after which the election of officers was proceeded with and resulted as follows:—President, E. Bayley (Toronto); 1st Vice-President, W. A. Logie (Hamilton); 2nd Vice-President, J. H. Senkler (Osgoode Hall); Hon. Sec'y-Treas., R. K. Barker (University); Executive Committee, A.

Kerr (Osgoode), W. L. McQuarrie (University), W. A. McCarthy (Ottawa College), H. Bedford Jones (Trinity), P. B. Taylor (Ottawa), G. W. Marsh (London).

FISHING.

Our American cousins have obtained a world-wide notoriety for what in the present age is termed cool audacity or unlimited cheek, but which our ancestors would probably have dubbed ignorant impudence.

A more powerful example of the lengths to which this trait of character will carry men has perhaps rarely been more clearly exemplified than the visit of the president and secretary (residents of Cincinnati) of the Pelee Island Fishing Club to the Minister of Fisheries to ask him to relieve the members of their club from the laws of the Dominion as to close seasons for fishing.

These gentlemen from Ohio wanted but one addition to their delegation to make it as perfect a picture of inane impudence as can be imagined. They ought to have brought with them their esteemed fellow citizen Major McKinley, whose deep interest and anxious desire to further the interests of this Dominion of ours might have assured them of even greater consideration than has already been accorded to their various requests. For this is not the first visit of these gentlemen upon the same errand; and what they at first sought as a relaxation for a single season, they now ask as a permanent exception in their favour as against all other anglers.

Of course they are not without reasons to advance in favour of what they ask, but the best of them were without weight, and Mr. Tupper is to be congratulated upon having taken this view of the matter.

The Minister of Fisheries may occasionally be guilty of errors of judgment—he is still a very young man,—but it must be admitted his motives always appear to be prompted by the motto, Canada First, and this will cover a multitude of sins.

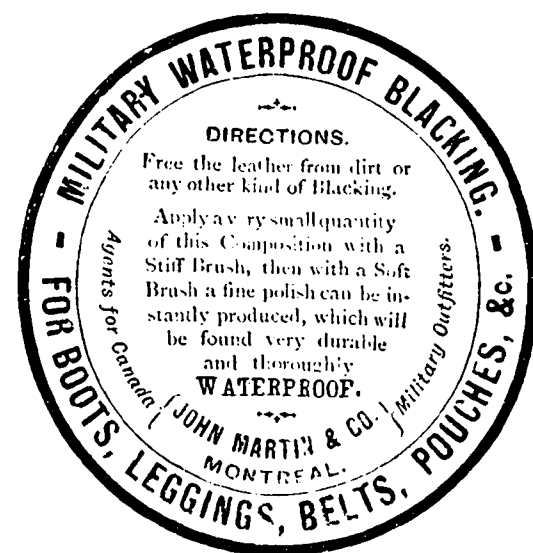
ERRATUM.

Our devil played sad havoc last week with my remarks on the Ottawa College vs. Montreal football match.

Several typographical errors marked in the proof were carefully corrected, no doubt because their appearance would have reflected upon his workmanship, but the omission of three or four lines of manuscript he did not seem to consider worthy of notice, although I called his attention to the fact, and their non-insertion spoiled the context.

What I *did* write was, "Time and again during the scrimmage the College wings were off-side, and when the ball would be passed back to Campbell or Fry, the Collegians warned by the disaster which had befallen them in Montreal, &c., &c."

The Queen City Homing Club held their third annual meeting in the club room, 183 Clinton street, Toronto, on the 17th. The attendance was large and the fanciers' enthusiasm was great. Last season the success of the club was pleasing to all members, and, as the members have been importing largely, they expect to do much better next season. The following officers were re-elected for 1892: Thomas Buckley, president; William G. Giles, vice-president; Fred Bauckham, secretary, and David Winslow, treasurer. Some of the many races the club intends having next season were made up, viz., from Guelph, St. Mary's, Sarnia, Newtonville, Trenton and Kingston. A silver medal is to be given for first prizes in each of these races, and a good second and third prize to be made later. A challenge cup will be flown for from Sarnia or Kingston.



A New Canadian Monthly.

The *Dominion Illustrated* announces an important departure, and one that will mark a new era in the high class journalism of Canada. The publishers of that splendid weekly have decided to convert it into a monthly with the beginning of the year. It will be a 64-page magazine, differing in shape from the present one, handsomely illustrated throughout, and its pages will be graced with the writings of the most gifted Canadian authors. It will be called the *Dominion Illustrated Monthly*, and the subscription, \$1.50 per annum will place it within the reach of all. Address the Sabiston Litho. & Pub. Co., Montreal.

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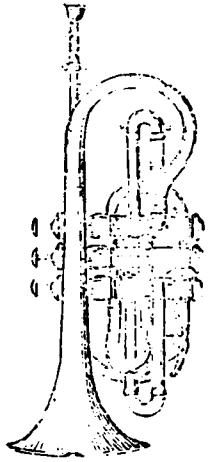
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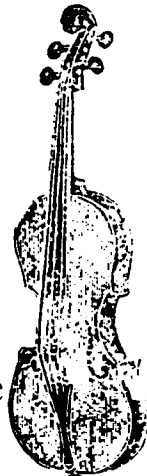
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| 5 " " " 250.00 | 1,250 |
| 25 " " " 50.00 | 1,250 |
| 100 " " " 25.00 | 2,500 |
| 500 " " " 15.00 | 7,500 |
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| 100 Prizes, worth \$25.00 | \$2,500 |
| 100 " " " 15.00 | 1,500 |
| 100 " " " 10.00 | 1,000 |
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| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------|
| 200 yards..... | 5 5 5 5 4 34 | } 103 |
| 500 yards..... | 5 5 5 5 4 34 | |
| 600 yards..... | 5 5 5 5 5 35 | |

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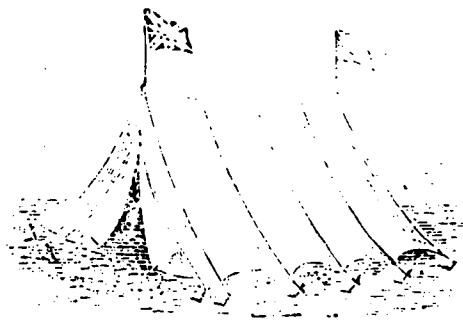
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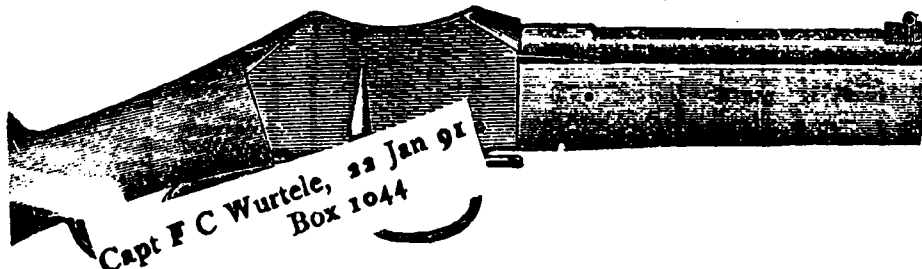
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