

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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Topics of the Week.

Mr. Wm. Mulock, M.P. for North York, and president of the Ontario Rifle Association, has rendered the Dominion good service by the timely resolution he presented to the House of Commons last week, affirming the devotion and loyalty of the Canadian people to the Queen and Throne. His object, as he explained, was to give an authoritative answer to the rumours industriously circulated in the press of the United States, and gaining currency in England, that Canada was disaffected towards the Empire, and ready for annexation to the States. Mr. Mulock's patriotic speech upon the subject was one of his best efforts in Parliament. His seconder was Lieut.-Col. Amyot, M.P. for Bellechasse, who commands the 9th Battalion. His speech too was thoroughly patriotic, and it was in great part devoted to proof of how steadfastly the French-Canadians have striven to maintain British connection whenever a severance was broached.

Those who have been interested in the accounts appearing from time to time in these columns of the progress of the cadet movement in Montreal, will be pleased to note in this issue the superiority in drill already acquired by the youthful Highlanders being trained by the enthusiastic Adjutant of the Fifth Royal Scots. The encouragement—as yet scant, it is true—given by the Government for the formation of these cadet corps, would if fully taken advantage of be a source of no little strength to the militia system, and assist materially in imbuing the youth of the country with the patriotic zeal characteristic of volunteer militiamen.

A welcome addition to the literature of the proposed efficiency competition, is the letter of Capt. C. Greville Harston, appearing in this issue, and in which he virtually makes a friendly challenge to the Grenadiers' doughty neighbours the Queen's Own Rifles and the Thirteenth Battalion, to enter upon such a competition and thus decide for the year at least the relative all-round efficiency. It is to be hoped his badinage will be accepted in the spirit of fun in which we are sure it was written, and that not only the corps mentioned, but all others aspiring to places in the first rank will signify their readiness to submit to some official comparative test to be agreed upon.

The annual business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association was held yesterday, 5th inst. So purely formal, and devoid of immediate interest, were the proceedings, that considering the press of other matter we defer until next week the detailed report printed as a matter of record. The announcement was made at the general meeting that Rideau range has been secured for a further period of five years, and that ten additional targets will probably be placed there next season. The executive adopted a stringent rule regarding competitors' qualifications, which will force all desiring to shoot for militia prizes to do their share in the drill and training of the force.

We do not agree with our correspondent "Bacon," in the exception he takes to the insertion of personal paragraphs such as that to which he refers. The militia of the Dominion are a great fraternity with many bonds of sympathy, not the least powerful of which is the personal friendship arising out of occasional social meetings of members from far distant localities. They thus become interested in all that concerns each other, and read with avidity such personal intelligence, however trifling, as may appear in the press.

A couple of typographical errors somewhat spoiled the very interesting letter contributed last week by Capt. G. A. McMicking on the subject of the squadding at D.R.A. meetings. In lines 27 and 28, ranges 4 and 5 should read as for from 200 to 600 yards each range. And in line 49, "singly" should be substituted for "simply." We commend the letter to the consideration of the executive.

Will our correspondent Ubique, who this week forwarded an interesting news item and a letter promising further contributions, be good enough to reveal his identity the next time he writes. It is not desired to publish his name, but for our own satisfaction we like to know who our contributors are.

The Military Rifle League.

The Canadian Military Rifle League is now an accomplished fact, permanent organization having been effected at a meeting held last evening, 5th inst., in the Tower room of the Commons building at Ottawa. The attendance was not large, but it was quite representative, amongst those present being Lieut.-Col. Wm. O'Brien, M.P., 35th Simcoe Battalion; Major F. W. Carpenter, M.P., 77th Wentworth Battalion; Lieut.-Col. F. Massey, 6th Fusiliers, Montreal; Lieut.-Col. W. P. Anderson, 43rd Battalion, Ottawa; Capt. John Hood, 5th Royal Scots, Montreal; Lieut. C. F. Winter, G.G.F.G., Ottawa; Lieuts. E. D. Sutherland and W. A. Jamieson, 43rd Battalion; Pte. W. R. Pringle, Q.O.R., Toronto, and Pte. J. D. Taylor, 43rd Battalion. Lieut.-Col. Anderson, provisional first vice-president, by request took the chair, and Pte. W. R. Pringle, provisional secretary, kept the minutes of the meeting.

The first business considered was the election of officers, and as the provisional list, whose names appeared on the circular issued in December last had met with general approval, it was unanimously de-

cided to confirm the list, after making a couple of changes consequent upon refusals to act. Thus Lieut.-Col. J. R. Wilkinson, of the 21st Essex Battalion, was chosen in place of Major Perley, H.Q.S., as an Ontario member of the Executive, and Capt. T. L. Brown, of the 54th Battalion, Richmond, was named in place of Lieut. Desbarats, Vics., as a Quebec member of the same. The officers now stand thus :

President, Lieut.-Col. The Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hamilton ; 1st Vice-President, Lieut.-Col. Anderson, Ottawa ; 2nd Vice-President, Major Delamere, Toronto.

EXECUTIVE.—*Ontario*—Major Mason, Hamilton ; Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson, Essex Centre ; Major Sam Hughes, Lindsay ; Capt. Russell, Bowmanville ; Capt. W. C. Macdonald, Toronto. *Quebec*—Lieut.-Col. Miller, Quebec ; Lieut.-Col. Massey, Montreal ; Capt. Hood, Montreal ; Capt. Sims, Montreal ; Capt. Brown, 54th Battalion, Richmond. *Prince Edward Island*—Capt. Longworth, Charlottetown ; Lieut. Hooper, Charlottetown ; Lieut. Weeks, Charlottetown. *Nova Scotia*—Major Garrison, Halifax ; Capt. Barnhill, Shubenacadie ; Lieut. Dimock, Windsor. *New Brunswick*—Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, Fredericton ; Major Hartt, St. John ; Capt. Hartt, St. John. *Manitoba*—Lieut.-Col. Boswell, Winnipeg ; Major Buchan, Winnipeg ; Staff-Sergt. C. N. Mitchell, Winnipeg. *North-West Territories*—Capt. Wyld, Battleford ; Staff-Sergt. J. C. Gordon, Prince Albert ; Mr. Jewett, Regina. *British Columbia*—Lieut.-Col. Prior, Victoria ; Capt. P. A. E. Irving, Victoria ; Capt. Scoullar, New Westminster.

Treasurer, Capt. J. Bruce, Court House, Toronto ; Secretary, Pte. W. R. Pringle, 63 Front Street West, Toronto ; Asst. Secretary, Sergt. A. D. Crooks, Toronto.

The proposed rules and regulations were then discussed, the object kept in view being to so arrange as to offer inducements to all corps to take part in the League competitions ; encouragement being given to those not now having the requisite number of marksmen to commence practice without delay with a view to participation. It was decided that, as proposed, the competition should be limited to regimental teams of ten men each, no limit being placed upon the number of teams any regiment may enter. It will not be necessary to have the same men on a team each match, but when a man once fires with a team he is not to fire with any other that season. The idea of this arrangement is that, supposing one regiment enters two teams, and on some occasion a member of the first is absent, a member of the second team will not be eligible in his place, but the best man in the reserve will have to be called upon. The stipulation contained in the prospectus circular respecting the number of men to constitute teams of succeeding years was not adopted, the meeting considering that its business was with this year only. Notification having been received from members of Mounted Police rifle associations and others in the North-West, that they would like to enter the League competitions, it was decided that at the discretion of the executive association teams might be admitted from the North-West, there being no militia organization there, and consequently no possibility of regimental teams.

The proposed entrance fee of \$10 per team was confirmed, together with the proviso that where any regiment enters more than one team, the fee shall be \$10 for the first and \$5 for every subsequent team. The fund so created is to be expended in the purchase of trophies, after incidental expenses of the competition have been paid. It was deemed inadvisable to offer any money prizes, but with the view to sustaining interest in the competition it was resolved to offer not less than one prize for every five teams competing. The prizes are to be awarded for the aggregate scores of the whole season's competitions, which will be seven in number, taking places fortnightly on these Saturday afternoons : 17th and 31st May, 14th and 28th June, 12th and 26th July, and 9th August. The matches will be fired with the Snider rifle, at 200, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots at each.

The stipulation that range officers should not belong to the corps for which they act was approved of. The clause giving retired officers permission to fire on teams of their former corps was dropped, it being held that retired officers should have no privilege of the nature denied to retired n.c.o. or men. It was decided that the regulations as now agreed to should be printed and submitted to the executive for such further action as may be necessary.

The League starts under very favourable auspices, for already notification has been received of the intended entry of fifty-five teams. Many shooting centres are still unheard from, and it is calculated that the total number of teams entered will be close upon one hundred. The meeting having, at the suggestion of Col. Massey, done the MILITIA GAZETTE the honour of naming it the organ of the League and official channel for communication of its affairs, this fact will add materially to the pleasure with which we shall chronicle the events in connection with what is surely destined to be a very important factor in promoting the interests of military rifle shooting in Canada.

When the German Emperor a short time ago named one of his regiments, the 1st Dragoon Guards, after Queen Victoria, he called it the Queen of England's Own Regiment. By an Order-in-Council just issued, he decrees that the regiment shall henceforth bear the title of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland's Regiment. The German Emperor is said to have made the change in order to be in conformity with Her Majesty's official title.

The Dominion Artillery Association.

In their annual report, presented at the meeting this week, the council of the Dominion Artillery Association endorse the statement of the Secretary that the past year has been the most successful in the history of the organization. They observe that all the field batteries, with two exceptions, and thirty-one out of thirty-nine garrison batteries have affiliated, while the list of individual members shews a gratifying increase. The annual meetings for practice have been well attended by both field and garrison batteries. The success already achieved by the Ontario Artillery Association leaves no room for doubt as to the advantages which could accrue to the service at large, were other similar provincial associations organized, as they afford a stimulus to increased efficiency and enlist local sympathy and support, pecuniary and otherwise, which cannot be shared by the Dominion Association. The local distribution of prizes has been found to have a beneficial effect upon the subscription list. The council recommend that the Department of Militia and Defence be requested to increase the time allowed non-commissioned officers and gunners of all batteries that go into camp, by say four days for preliminary drill before going into camp—thus allowing the entire time in camp to be employed in performance of camp duties and other necessary work, much of which is now left undone for the want of time. Appended are some interesting extracts from the report of the executive committee :—

FIELD BATTERY PRACTICE.

1. The main features of the practice for this year consisted in the substitution of a range-finding practice, carried out during annual drill, for the preliminary practice hitherto in use, and the reduction of the actual number of competitors at the ordinary practice from sixteen to eight. These changes are in accordance with those proposed by the executive committee in its last report. Of the sixteen affiliated batteries, ten were enabled to carry out the range-finding practice, and with very satisfactory results. The range was found by two marksmen of each sub-division, the latter acting independently, and on the range being found by common shell, two rounds of shrapnel were fired from each gun.

2. The instructional value of this practice to the whole battery is very great. More attention will have to be paid in future to coming into action and opening fire with rapidity under service conditions, and the practice itself will be carried a stage further by finding the ranges by sections instead of by sub-divisions, and by using a second target when the distance of the first has been correctly found.

3. The actual competitive practice was carried out at a land range near Kingston, and was participated in at that locality by detachments from thirteen batteries—the Newcastle, Winnipeg and Welland Canal batteries fired at local headquarters during their annual camps. The scores made in most instances were very good, and afford a fair test of the relative efficiency as marksmen of each detachment. The following remarks, however, are deemed necessary for general information and future guidance :—

(a) All competitors should be previously well trained in laying a gun, and no man with defective eyesight should be selected as a possible marksman.

(b) Care should be taken in preliminary instruction in fuse boring, many bits having been broken owing to undue haste and want of experience.

(c) Very much more care should be taken in judging the effect of fire ; in most instances this can be better done by a signaller with a field glass than by the competitor, and apart from its necessity for required alterations in elevation and deflection, should be invariably practised as being an absolute necessity on service.

As a first attempt at a general meeting of field battery detachments, the competition may be considered as entirely satisfactory, and reflects much credit upon the executive staff, which was furnished by "A" Battery, R.C.A., with Major Lindsay as Camp Qr.-Master, and the experience gained by all will doubtless be turned to practical advantage in future meetings.

4. In this connection the committee strongly recommend that steps should be taken to improve the present service sights, which are manifestly too rough and coarse to do full justice to the shooting powers of the gun.

5. The drill and driving competitions for Gzowski cup and cash prizes show a decided improvement, the winning battery this year per-

forming their drill in the average time of 2 min. 34 $\frac{1}{8}$ sec. as compared with 2 min. 46 sec., the time made by last year's winners. As the competition is a fair test of drill, driving and horses, its continuance in its present form is considered very advisable.

GARRISON ARTILLERY PRACTICE.

6. The practice at local head quarters was confined to two batteries each of the Halifax and New Brunswick Brigades, the Cobourg Battery with S. B. guns and the batteries of the British Columbia Brigade. It was hoped that the latter could have practised under similar conditions to the former, but as they were obliged to fire at a range of about 1,350 yards, the other batteries firing at a range of from 1,750 to 1,800 yards, the committee decided that they could not comply with the rules of the competition, and their prizes have consequently been awarded at the rate of ten dollars per battery.

7. The competition at the Island of Orleans was conducted on the same principles as during the former year. It was attended by 31 officers and representatives from 21 batteries. Owing to the insufficiency of 40-pr. ammunition only 8 rounds from this gun were fired by four competitors in each detachment, the same number firing 4 common shell and 1 shrapnel each from the 64-pr. The size of the targets was reduced from 8 feet square to that of an ordinary puncheon, and in consequence they were much more easily replaced when damaged, and the practice was not delayed to any appreciable extent. In a few cases it was noticed that competitors with defective eyesight had been selected as marksmen, and more care in this respect in future is strongly recommended.

The arrangements for camping, subsistence and transport were very satisfactorily carried out by Major Lindsay, camp Quarter-master, and much of the success of the meeting in undoubtedly due to the able manner in which the necessary details of the management were performed by the working staff detailed from "B" Battery, R.C.A.

8. The shifting ordnance competition was well and closely contested by detachments from the Halifax, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Brigades. The members of these showed evidence of careful training, and the simple operations elsewhere described, were very correctly performed in the manner prescribed by the hand-book of artillery drills. It was subsequently decided by the committee that the second prizes in A and B competitions should be awarded.

9. The committee desire to suggest that special range reports for batteries practising at sea ranges be prepared, and that the present rules for practice may be revised with the alterations rendered necessary by recent regulations inserted.

10. Instructional targets were recommended for supply to each battery by the executive committee in its last report, but a motion was subsequently carried at the general meeting that the Government should be asked to supply them—and this committee are not aware of any subsequent action having been taken. In view of the very trifling cost of these targets if made locally, and the expense which would necessarily be incurred by their transport from any one locality to all batteries, the committee suggest that the actual cost of manufacture be allowed to each brigade or battery making use of such targets.

The old gunboat *Condor*, which, under the command of Lord Charles Beresford, so greatly distinguished herself during the bombardment of the Alexandrian forts, has been sold to be broken up.

Experiments for simplifying the manufacture of smokeless powder were commenced in Russia at the Okhta laboratories in 1888, and continued until the succeeding summer. At that period, the first samples were presented to the war office at St. Petersburg, and highly approved of for the use of repeating fire-arms. Orders have consequently been transmitted to Okhta to continue the manufacture of the composition (a white powder) on the most extended scale. Meanwhile, the Toulou small arms factories are being kept hard at work in the supply of magazine rifles. So much for the peaceful professions of Holy Russia, and the unctuous assertions of the Czar in wishing but for the economical and industrial progress of his people. To further induce public opinion to be favourable to the latter professions of amity in Europe, and hood-wink political susceptibilities in other countries, a recent ukase decrees the attachment of native civil engineers to the Russian Embassies at all the chief cities on the continent, and at New York. These new attaches are to confine their attention, so runs the circular, to all matters in industrial or mechanical progress made in the countries to which they are accredited. Their periodical reports are to enlighten the efforts of home industry, but when it comes to be considered that every Russian engineer forms part of the active army, the appointments to be made abroad, in this character, may be taken as a subterfuge to cloak the wide system of espionage either for war or political motives in which the Russian Government has always so largely excelled.

Regimental and Other News.

The first annual dinner of the non-commissioned officers association of the Halifax Garrison Artillery was held at the Bellevue Hotel, Bedford, on the 28th ult. The party, numbering about fifty, in regimental dress, went by the afternoon train and at Bedford were served with a first-class repast. Staff-Sergt. Mowbray presided. Among the guests were Lt.-Col. Curren, Maj. Garrison, Maj. Boggs and Capt. Stewart. The toast list included the Queen, Colonel and officers H.G.A., sister battalions, the ladies, the press and "Our next reunion meeting." Speeches were made by Col. Curren, Majors Garrison and Boggs, Capt. Stewart, Sergt. Brown, 63rd; Sergt. Curtis, Sergt. Frawley and Sergt. Mowbray. The company was entertained with songs by Mr. Chester, late R.I.R., Bomb. Fader, Sergt. Frawley, Sergt.-Major Gibbs, Bomb. Smith, Sergt. Jackson and Sergt. Broadhurst. After spending a most enjoyable evening the return was made by the C.P.R. at midnight. The dinner committee, to whom much credit is due, consisted of Sergt. Frawley, Staff-Sergt. Mowbray and Corp. Marshall. These are the officers of the association:—President, Sergt.-Major Spencer; Vice-President, Corp. Doane; Secretary and Treasurer, Sergt. Marshall; Committee, Sergt. Frawley, Sergt.-Major Cass, Sergt. Robinson, Corp. Marshall, Sergt. Broadhurst, Sergt. Snow, Sergt. McLeod.

Winnipeg.

The Ninetieth will enter a team for the Military Rifle League matches.

The regimental rifle committee have arranged for a competition with Morris tubes, under the following rules and regulations: The competition is open to all non-commissioned officers and men of the battalion. Competitors will be divided into three classes, viz.: 1st, 2nd and 3rd class marksmen. 1st class marksmen, those who have made three scores of seventy per cent. in any one season; 2nd class marksmen, those who have made three scores of forty per cent. in any one season; 3rd class marksmen, those who have failed to make three scores of forty per cent. Competitors making three maximum scores in their class will be promoted to the class to which said scores entitle them. Three prizes will be given in each class, awarded to the three competitors making the five highest scores in their respective classes during the competition. Entries must be made fifteen minutes before firing. Entrance fee, twenty-five cents, which will include fifteen rounds of ammunition. Ranges, 100 yards, 300 yards and 500 yards, five shots at each range. The competition will be held on Wednesday nights, commencing February 5th and ending the 30th April. Firing to commence each night at eight o'clock sharp. Any competitor who has absented himself from three consecutive parades without leave of the commanding officer in writing, is disqualified from receiving a prize.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE SHOOTING.

In an interesting and sensible letter appearing in the *Siftings* a correspondent notices the letters lately appearing in the *MILITIA GAZETTE* on the subject of firing conditions, and concerning the deplored dearth of new shots says: "The rules might with advantage be altered, so that shots could be classed as first or second, according to their record, having an aggregate in both; they have, I believe, this system on the Winnipeg rifle range, and I understand with good results. I am afraid our volunteers pay too much attention to mere drill matters, and not enough to shooting. "Old School" might with advantage turn his pen in that direction. I should fancy he is pretty well posted locally, and has probably noticed the small amount of interest that is being taken in class firing. No pay, in my opinion, should be given for any man unless he puts in his class firing, and a man should not be allowed on the effective strength of his corps until he had attended so many of the drills and lectures for the purpose of teaching him the art of aiming properly. For each man 40 rounds of ammunition is drawn annually, without training or instruction of any kind he goes on the range, stands up at one hundred yards from a target and fires. If he hits it, all right; if he does not hit, it is also all right. There is nobody there who cares to show him where he is wrong, he is there for the purpose of firing so much ammunition; he fires it. How can you possibly make even fair shots, under such a system? The distances he shoots at are good ones, for preparatory training, although not interesting to good shots. There is a lot of blank ammunition wasted annually on field days, etc., it is simply thrown away, because when firing either independently or otherwise, no trouble is taken to see that the men even come to the 'present' properly. If company officers would take their companies for a few hours aiming drill, and then supply them with two or three 'blank' letting each man fire independently, so that it could be seen that he was aiming properly and was steady when the trigger was pressed, they would be doing some good. Under the present system harm is done in giving the men bad habits in both position and aiming.

"The class firing should be directly under the supervision of the District Staff, in fact he could hold his inspection on the range; what few movements are generally done, could be done there as well as any other place, an advantage in this would also be, that it could be seen that every man for whom pay was drawn, had done his class firing. At least fifteen rounds of the forty supplied, should be used on vanishing targets at unknown distances, in order of attack; and five rounds in volley firing by either company or squads under an officer who would name the distances, the party to be moved after each volley, no man to be allowed to fire in either skirmishing or volley firing, unless he could make a certain number of points at the one and two hundred yards range."

Peterborough.

Good progress has already been made in the three weeks since the class of the Peterborough military school was organized. Those non-commissioned officers who have been attending are picking up wonderfully, and will soon make efficient instructors, some of them having acquired a very good "word of command." Major Edwards has written each of the captains of companies, asking them to send men from the ranks to take the place of non-coms who have failed to attend. On the opening of drill in the spring, no one who is unqualified will be allowed to retain the stripes.

THE NEEDED ARMOURY.

The Finance Committee of the Peterborough County Council has been interviewed by a deputation of military men regarding a county grant towards an armoury for the 57th battalion. The Town Council, at its last meeting, was waited upon by a similar deputation and passed a resolution making a grant of two thousand towards the erection of the armoury, on condition that the county make a grant of one thousand for the same purpose.

Before the County Council, Colonel J. Z. Rogers, of the 57th battalion, first spoke, pointing out the reasons why the armoury was a necessity and stated what the town was prepared to do, and what assistance would be given by the Government.

Col. H. C. Rogers, of "C" Troop of Cavalry, followed and presented the case of the mounted men. He pointed out that the cavalry was composed of farmers' sons and was a credit to the county. He said the armoury would enthuse the corps. The present drill shed was unfit for use. He impressed upon the committee that the Government grant depended upon the liberality of the county, and he therefore hoped they would grant say one thousand dollars.

Major Edwards also spoke in regard to the matter, and pointing out that the force was largely recruited from the county, and the interest in the corps was fully as strong in the county as in the town.

Capt. Dennistoun added still more reasons why he thought the grant might be made, and hoped their request would be granted. He outlined what had been done personally by the officers of the battalion in the way of adding to the equipment, and said he was confident that a grant, such as asked from the county, would put new life into the battalion and help to render it more efficient.

Plans of the proposed armoury building were laid before the committee for inspection. The members discussed the proposition and enquired of the deputation regarding the organization of the local militia. Mr. John Burnham spoke favourably in regard to the grant. He considered that the armoury was a necessity and that the grant would be a judicious investment. He moved that the Government be petitioned to sell the rural drill sheds and apply the proceeds in aid of erection of a 57th batt. armoury at Peterborough, and that the County Council make a sufficient grant to bring the whole amount up to \$1,000. The resolution was carried.

Hamilton.

"A" Company, 13th Battalion, commanded by Captain John Stoneman, has commenced its drills for the season of 1890. There is no doubt but this company will be one of the smartest in the battalion this year. There have been some changes in the non-com. ranks, new lamps for old ones, which will go a good way to improving the company. Captain Stoneman is a man of fine military presence and very popular. He has been in the battalion a number of years having joined before Ridgeway, and taken part in that engagement. He is assisted by two energetic subalterns, Lieuts. Hobson and Herring.

"D" Company is also drilling on Friday evenings. It is commanded by Captain Ross, with Lieuts. Witton and Fearman, all very smart officers. Captain Ross is attending the Dental College in Toronto at present, but the company is left in remarkably good hands. This company came out first in the drill and efficiency competition last year and there is no doubt but what they deserved it; it just shows what a company can do when every one in it will put his shoulder to the wheel. The other companies say "D" will have to hustle if they want to keep first place, but there is not much fear but what they can do that if required.

Right you are, Captain Adam! Hamilton would be very much dis-

appointed if the Thirteenth could not compete with any battalion in the Dominion, and with a very fair chance of winning. It just requires officers, non-com. officers and men all to work together, and with an object, that object being to be the crack battalion in Canada.

HAM.

The Dufferin Rifles.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Dufferin Rifles Rifle Association was held in the officers' quarters on Tuesday evening, 28th ult. Owing to the illness of Col. Jones, Major Rothwell took the chair. The report of the council of the association and the treasurer showed the association to be in a most satisfactory condition, with a good balance in the treasury and every prospect of an unusually successful season before it. Officers were elected as follows:—President, Lieut.-Col. Jones; Vice-President, Maj. Jones and Captain McGlashan; Treasurer, Major Rothwell; Secretary, Capt. C. M. Nelles (all re-elected); Finance Committee—Captains McGlashan, Leonard and Nelles; Executive Committee—Lieut.-Col. Jones, Surgeon Harris and Captain Wilkes; Executive Officer, Lieut.-Col. Jones; Council—Lieut.-Col. Jones, Surg. Harris, Captains Harris, McGlashan, Leonard and Nelles; Surgeons, Surg. Harris and Assist.-Surg. Minchin; Auditors, Capt. Jones and Lieut. Curtis.

The association decided to affiliate as usual with the Dominion and Ontario Rifle Association, and endeavour to send teams to compete at the annual meetings at Ottawa and Toronto.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted: "That in future no member of the regiment shall be permitted to shoot in the regimental match unless he has performed at least 75 per cent. of drills, between the 1st January of each year and the date of the regimental matches in that year, or between the date of his enrolment in the regiment and date of matches if not enrolled before January 1st, and that each member of the regiment who intends to shoot in this match shall, if a non-commissioned officer or man, produce from the officer commanding his company, and if an officer from the adjutant, a certificate stating that he has put in the required number of drills, and hand the same to the secretary before he receives his order to shoot, and no member of the regiment shall be allowed to shoot in this match until he produces this certificate; and furthermore that the captains of companies be notified to hand in to the secretary a list of the men of their companies, and the adjutant a list of the officers, who have so performed 75 per cent. of the drills." This will apply to all matches in which it is necessary for competitors to be *bona fide* members of the regiment.

The arrangement of prize lists and date of annual matches was left with the council, the meeting expressing a desire that they should come off before the matches at Toronto and Ottawa, and that target practice begin May. The prospectus of the Canadian Military Rifle League being discussed, it was decided to enter a team in that league.

Toronto.

"G" Company of the Royal Grenadiers had their annual dinner on Friday evening last, 31st ult., at the Bay Horse hotel. Col.-Sergt. Fowler presided over a large attendance of members and guests.

The sergeants of the Queen's Own Rifles who were members of the Battleford column at the time of the North-West rebellion met on Friday last at the sergeants' mess, corner of Front and Church streets, Capt. Magee presiding. It was decided to celebrate the anniversary of the engagement at Cut Knife creek by a dinner on the 28th of March, and to invite all the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Q.O.R. who took part in the event. Committees were appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

At the annual meeting of "I" Company, Q.O.R., last Friday night, there was a large attendance, and great interest was manifested in all that had to do with their branch of the boys in blue. The company fund has been cradled carefully, and has reached such proportions as justified the members in making an addition, and sending in an order for new uniforms, to be ready for habitation at the spring drills. They have also decided to go in for special drill, and also for more practice at the butts, the object in view being to prove that "I" Company can scale the ladder of excellence in military pursuits.

The annual meeting of "E" Company, Q.O.R., was held on Thursday evening, 30th ult., in the orderly room at the drill shed, at which there was a good attendance. Lieut. J. H. Knifton occupied the chair. After reading the minutes of the last meeting, the reports for the past year, showing the company to be in a flourishing condition, were adopted. The following officers and committees were appointed for the ensuing year: Corp. Geo. Bailey, secretary; Lieut. J. H. Knifton was unanimously re-elected treasurer; rifle committee, Sergt. Cauldwell, Sergt. Bowden, Sergt. Robertson, Corp. Bailey and Pte. Matthews; clothing committee, Sergt. Cauldwell, Corp. Lennox and Pte. Crawford. A committee was also appointed to make arrangements for the annual dinner, which will take place about the middle of February. A resolution of regret was expressed at the retirement of Col.-Sergt. F. T. D. Hector.

A vote of thanks was tendered Lieut. Knifton for his able conduct in the chair, and also for his kindness in donating a valuable gold challenge medal to be competed for and won by any member of the company making the highest average shooting during the coming season.

THE BOOMER RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The adjourned annual meeting of the Boomer Rifle Association, in connection with "A" Co., Royal Grenadiers, was held Wednesday evening, 29th ult., at the Bay Horse hotel. The president, Sergt. Mowat, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of the members of the association. The report of the late lamented Secretary-Treasurer Henderson was presented and read by Lieut. Lambe. It was an able and full report, embracing all the salient features of the work and success of the association during the year 1889, setting forth that the "Boomer" stood at the head of all the shooting associations of Canada in the large number of good marksmen connected with it, having no less than three men on the Wimbledon team, no other company in Canada having more than two. During the year they had issued challenges to the Governor General's Foot Guards, Ottawa; the Allan Rifle Association, Q.O.R.; the Sherbrooke Rifle Association, Quebec; the Highland Creek Rifle Association; the Peterboro' Rifle Association and others to shoot a match by telegraph for a barrel of flour, to be devoted to charitable objects, but they had received no replies except from the Allan Rifle Association, who generously acknowledged that they considered the "Boomer" were superior to them. At Wimbledon their men, Staff-Sergeants McVittie and Mitchell, figured very prominently, and were on the team succeeding in winning the Kolapore cup for Canada. They also succeeded in bringing home many valuable individual prizes, amongst other prizes in the Alexandra, the Graphic match, the Secretary of State for War match, and conspicuously in the St. George's match Sergeant McVittie came out fourth of the Canadian team, whilst in the Wilmot match he headed the Canadian team. In the Health match the Staff sergeant came first. On their return from Wimbledon the above men distinguished themselves at the P.Q.R.A., carrying off a large number of the best prizes. The following were elected officers for the year 1890: President, Capt. J. B. McLean; vice-president, Staff-Sergt. Curran; secretary-treasurer, Lieut. Lambe. A resolution was carried unanimously expressing deep regret at the loss the association has sustained in the late secretary, Private A. Henderson, and directing the secretary to send a copy of the resolution to the bereaved family of the deceased.

A MILITARY INSTITUTE.

Two or three weeks ago, at the suggestion of Lieut.-Col. Otter, a committee composed of prominent militia officers in Toronto military district was formed for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps towards the organization of a military institute or club. As a result of their deliberations, a general meeting of the officers of the garrison was held last week at the Rossin House. It was largely attended, about fifty gentlemen accepting the invitation to be present. Amongst these were Lieut.-Col. Otter, Lieut.-Col. Grasett, Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Royal Grenadiers; Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Q.O.R.; Major Mason, Royal Grenadiers; Major Sankey, Q.O.R.; Major Dunn, G.G.B.G.; Major McSpadden, 12th Battalion; Major Mead, Toronto Field Battery; Capt. Mutton, Capt. McGee, Capt. Howard and Capt. Mason, Q.O.R.; Capt. Trotter Royal Grenadiers; Capt. Denison, G.G.B.G.; Capt. Symons, Capt. Ashworth and Capt. Thompson, 12th Battalion; Capt. Beatty, Toronto Field Battery; Lieut. Crean and Lieut. Wyatt, Q.O.R.; Lieut. Laurie, "C" Company I.S.C.; Lieut. McKay, Royal Grenadiers; Lieut. Fleming, G.G.B.G.; Lieut. Brown and Lieut. Vennell, 12th Battalion; Surgeon Campbell, G.G.B.G.; Mr. Myers, late of Toronto Field Battery; and Mr. Irving, late of Toronto Garrison Artillery. Lieut.-Col. Otter was appointed chairman, and Mr. Irving was selected to act as secretary. Three plans formulated for the promotion of the institute were presented to the meeting. The first suggested the renting of a couple of rooms and the organization of a club for the study of military science; the second proposed the organization of a club for social and scientific purposes, and the limitation of expenses to about \$800 per year with a revenue of \$1,000; and the third urged the renting of the furnished press club-house on Bay street, at an annual expense of \$1,200 per year, and the establishment of a club that would be social in its character as well as afford opportunity for the acquirement of knowledge on military subjects. A discussion of considerable length followed. Finally it was moved by Lieut.-Col. Dawson, seconded by Major Mead, that scheme number two be adopted. The motion was carried unanimously. It is proposed to admit to membership non-resident officers of corps in the district. Judging from the unanimity of opinion expressed at the meeting, and the number who have already expressed a desire to join the proposed organization, the new institute will be speedily created and enjoy a prosperous existence. The committee appointed to the charge of the project consists of Lieut.-Col. Otter, Lieut.-Col. Grasett, Major

Mason, Major Sankey, Major Mead, Major McSpadden, Capt. Mutton, Capt. Merritt, and Messrs. Myles and Irving.

Montreal.

A very pleasant evening was spent in the armoury of the Royal Scots on Wednesday, 29th ult., the occasion being the annual ball given by the officers (Bt.-Major Blaiklock and Lieut. G. S. Cantlie), to the N. C. officers and men of B company. About one hundred couples were present and dancing was kept up with zeal, all seeming to enjoy themselves to the fullest. A pleasing feature of the evening's amusement and one that speaks well for the good fellowship existing in this company was a presentation of a claymore dirk and belts to Staff-Sergt. Kennedy (lately Colour-Sergt.) on his appointment to the Staff-Sergt. Kennedy has been a hard worker during his service as Colour-Sergt. of his company, and was never tired doing what he thought necessary to the advancement and comfort of the rank and file; and that they appreciate his efforts is evident from the very handsome present made by the N. C. officers and men. Capt. Strathy in making the present on behalf of B company paid a very high tribute to the recipient for his zeal and efficiency as a N. C. officer. The company, also through Capt. and Adjt. Lydon, presented Piper Walker, of the company, with a very handsome gold mounted ebony walking stick as a mark of esteem and some acknowledgment for the many services rendered by Mr. Walker. The Adjutant in presenting the stick took the opportunity of referring to the many obligations the regiment were under to the pipers for their services in the past, and was glad to congratulate B company in being the first to recognize those services in a tangible shape, and hoped soon to hear of the other companies doing likewise. The dancing was then resumed and kept up with untiring spirit until the "wee sma' hours." Major Blaiklock and his Lieut. are to be congratulated on providing a very pleasant evening's entertainment for their really fine company and their friends.

THE HIGHLAND CADETS.

Several militia officers were present at the Royal Scots' armoury on Thursday evening, 23rd inst., on the occasion of a parade drill of Captain Lydon's Highland cadets. The parade included two companies, one of lads nearly up to the militia standard height, the other of smaller lads. All present expressed themselves surprised at the excellent exhibition of drill by the lads. After enough battalion drill to display the steady marching of the boys and to show that the sergeants are well up in their work, the boys were put through the manual exercise, turnings, physical drill and bayonet exercise, all of which were steadily performed. The turnings, with every motion perfectly distinct, were gone through to music, making a very pretty exercise, and evidently one in which the boys take great interest. Captain Lydon has appointed the following non-commissioned officers:—"A" Company, Col.-Sergt. Stewart, Sergeants Samuel, Abbott and Bell, Corporals Eaves, Shaw, Bain and Opzoonar; "B" Company, Col.-Sergt. Fenwick, Sergeants Turner, Coburn and Dawes, Corporals Lydon, Coburn, Briegal and White.

The Highland Cadet organization is at present composed of two companies. No. 1 are youths from 16 years to 18 years of age, many of whom are nearly ready to join the ranks of the regiment. No. 2 are boys from 14 to 16 years. They are uniformed in light grey tweed uniform, brown leather belts and leggings; the tunic is Highland doublet with knickerbockers for winter wear, and for summer the full Highland uniform. The first company drill with the short rifle and sword bayonet. No. 2 have provided themselves with a wooden gun and sword bayonet. The corps are arranging to arm themselves with the Royal Artillery carbine and sword bayonet, and hope to have them in the early spring. The expense has been mainly borne by the boys or their parents up to the present. Several companies of the Royal Scots have assisted by grants from their company funds, but there is a balance still to make up which it is hoped to raise by way of entertainments, etc.

THE VICS' SPOON COMPETITION.

The weekly spoon competition at the Victoria Rifles' armoury closed on Saturday night with the following scores: Special first class—Lieut. Shaw, 48; Pte. Keough, 45; Pte. Cooke, 45. First class—Pte. Miller, 43; Staff-Sergt. Wilson, 40; Capt. Becket, 39. Second class—Pte. Monsarrat, 38. Col.-Sergt. Gorman, 38; Pte. Becket, 37. Third class—Pte. Napier, 37; Sergt. Gascoigne, 37; Corpl. Hardie, 30. The conditions were five shots at 200 yards, standing, and five at 500 yards, prone. A sighting shot at each range allowed.

There is an ingenious contrivance in use at the armoury range for signalling the value of a shot from the marker's butt to the firing point. Lieut. Rodden, the chairman of the shooting committee, is the inventor. The apparatus consists of a square board fastened perpendicularly to the ceiling in front of the firing point and having a slot cut in it in the shape of a quarter-circle. An iron indicator is made to travel up and down the quarter-circle, and registers successively from the bottom, "Miss,"

PAGE

MISSING

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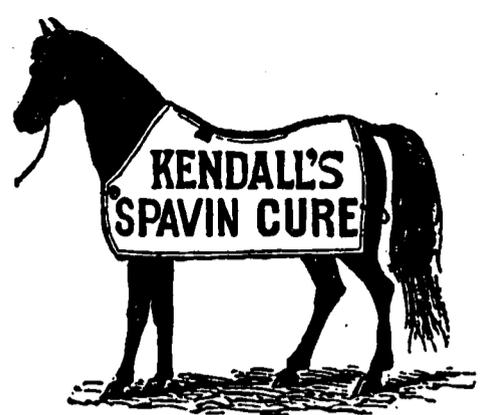
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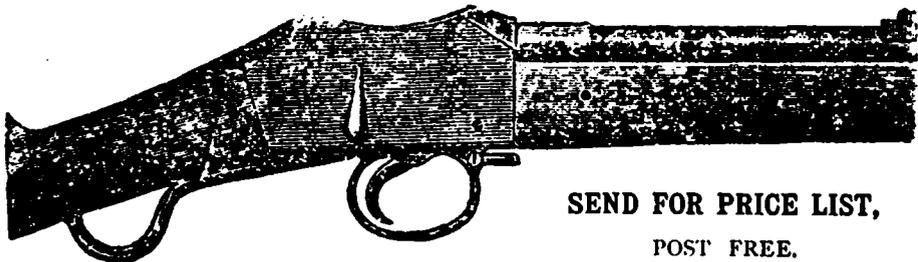
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Notice is hereby given that the fourth annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association will be held at the Rossin House, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 11th February, 1890, at 12 o'clock noon.

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the same place on the same day at 11 o'clock a.m.

Notice is hereby given that at the Annual General Meeting it is intended to move a motion to expunge clause eleven of the Constitution.

And "That the Gentlemen Cadets, R.M.C., Co-bourg Garrison Battery and London, Hamilton and Kingston Field Batteries, be allowed to participate in the Prize List, 1889, notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution.

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