

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Fifth Year.
VOL. V, No. 3

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 30th JANUARY, 1890.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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Topics of the Week.

Those interested are reminded that the annual business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association will be held at Ottawa on Wednesday next, 5th February, commencing at eleven o'clock. The annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association will be held at the same time and place the day following. On Wednesday a meeting will also be held at Ottawa for the purpose of establishing the proposed Canadian Military Rifle League.

Noticing the proposition for simultaneous telegraphic matches under the auspices of a Canadian Military Rifle League the *Volunteer Service Gazette* says:—"We wish the scheme every success, as anything that increases the attraction of military rifle shooting must be most useful. Simultaneous matches have not been, on the whole, successful at home; but in the Dominion of Canada, where the distances are too great to admit of much visiting on the part of rifle teams they may, and we hope will be more popular."

Our Hamilton contributor, as will be noted in the Regimental News columns, strongly advocates the appointment of Capt. Jas. Adam, of the 13th Battalion, as adjutant of the next Wimbledon team. Without pronouncing upon the relative merits of the officers ambitious for the adjutancy of the team for 1890, we can say, without fear of contradiction, that it would be hard to find one more zealous or more experienced than Capt. Adam; who has the reputation, justified by results achieved, of being a very excellent coach. By a happy coincidence, our readers hear from Capt. Adam himself this very week, as he contributes an interesting letter on the subject of the proposed efficiency competition, which he thinks would be a good thing for all participating.

With our correspondent who writes in this issue upon the subject of the selection of the Wimbledon team, we agree that there should be some change from the method now in vogue, for while this is as fair to

one as to the other, and creates no grievance for the individual competitor, it is notorious that through it many men make their way into the sixty and even on the team who are notoriously inferior shots with the Martini-Henry. An average marksman who worries along pretty nicely with the Snider will often be found to be quite unable to master the more precise Martini. While there are several objections that might be urged against our correspondent's plan, we trust that the subject which his letter opens up will be seriously considered by the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association.

By the way, there is anything but unanimity of feeling amongst the riflemen that the only business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association should be that held during the Session of Parliament, under auspices altogether too imposing for the average shooting man, who would feel himself out of place at the meeting, or at least would there run the risk of being given to understand that that was no place for him to air his ideas. It is, of course, very kind of Parliament to annually vote \$10,000 towards the Dominion Association, and pleasant that the Governor-General and a host of Senators, Members of Parliament, and high officers should assemble once a year and make speeches about rifle shooting, and refer all the business to the Council. It is further very good of the members of the Council to devote the time they do to the thankless task of managing the affairs of the Association. He would be an ungrateful rifleman who failed to appreciate the services they render. But at the same time the ordinary member should be afforded an opportunity of making his influence felt. He is overshadowed and overawed at the grandees' meeting; and as for the competitors' meeting held the week of the shooting, the resolutions there passed have the force only of recommendations. We think it would be an improvement if every competitor were made a member, and a regular business meeting held in shooting week. At this meeting business could be prepared and put before the Council for consideration and report, the latter to be presented at the annual meeting held during Session.

The demand made in our correspondence columns for a supply of paid adjutants for the militia will, we fear, be looked upon as a cry for luxuries when money for the necessities of the force is not forthcoming. That a paid officer devoting the greater part of his working time to the service would be kept well occupied in the instruction of a city corps, and that these corps would be immensely benefited by his services, there is no doubt. But for the present there are various more profitable ways of spending any extra money that the Minister may be able to get from Parliament.

Through some inadvertence several batteries failed in 1889 to comply with the conditions entitling them to compete in the Ontario Association competitions, for which their scores made under D.A.A. auspices would otherwise count. As will be seen by the official advertisement in another column, a motion relieving them from their disability is to be proposed at the forthcoming annual meeting of the association, to be held at Toronto on the 11th February.

The military members have been prominent in both "houses" of Parliament this session. In the Senate, the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was moved by Major Boulton; and in the Commons a military member, Lieut.-Col. Prior, was seconder. Though these gentlemen did not mention the fact, the speech was a disappointment in military circles, in that it contained not one word concerning a pension bill, nor the likewise expected establishment of militia in the North-West. But the Minister may be keeping these back for a pleasant surprise. Strength is added to this belief from the fact that his bill of last session relating to calling out in aid of the civil power, and which was withdrawn because time did not permit of its passage, is not referred to in the speech, while the natural assumption is that it will be re-introduced.

For the benefit of those who declaim against officers participating in rifle competitions we quote this paragraph from the *Volunteer Record*: "When distributing the prizes won at the Edinburgh New Year's Day Wappenschaw, Colonel Menzies, of the Queen's Brigade, dwelt on the importance of volunteer officers learning the art of rifle shooting. They only needed to know, he said, the pleasures of the art, to take a lively interest in it. He thought if they had more shooting officers they would have more shooting sergeants, and if they had more shooting sergeants they would have more shooting members in the ranks. In reference to the idiotic parrot cry that shooting men do not attend drill, Colonel Menzies said he had all along combatted that idea, and moreover asserted that he considered the shooting men in the Queen's Brigade were its back-bone. By Colonel Menzies' last remark, we are reminded of the assertion of a thirty years volunteer, lately retired—which by the way we heartily endorse—that volunteers are the *elite* of men, and shooting men the *elite* of volunteers."

Other considerations should no doubt enter into the calculation, but speaking purely in the interests of rifle shooting, it would be a good thing were the Creedmoor team suggestion made by our correspondent "Buckshot," put into effect. There would certainly be very eager competition for the honour of a place on such a team, and a strong all Canadian combination could be got up. The difficulty about shooting a match with United States marksmen would be that their methods and weapons are so different to ours, their sighting and wind gauging appliances for instance being such as to give them many points the advantage. This superiority arises from the fact that in the United States the riflemen eagerly adopt any new thing that promises to make greater the possibilities for accurate shooting; whilst in Canada we adhere to the English idea of giving a soldier a plain rifle and making him accommodate himself to it. In peace, he does this by the aid of an extensive kit. In war, he will have to do the best he can without his kit. The American rifleman's paraphernalia is permanently attached to his rifle, which fact enables him to make this boast, which we see in the last number of the *Chicago Guardsman*: "The appendages considered necessary by an American rifleman cost sixty-six cents; the shooting kit of the representative of the other nationality costs from \$29.17 to \$39.87." The latter figures the *Guardsman* takes from the advertisement, appearing in the MILITIA GAZETTE, of a dealer who of course makes the shooting man's ideal kit as complete as possible, with the idea of profit on the sales. But dismissing the above comparison as absurd, our riflemen with their sight protectors, barrel cleaners, barrel coolers, paints, sight elevators, etc., will envy their American cousins, who according to the *Guardsman* have only to add to their rifle and cartridge belt and ammunition, an outfit purchased for sixty-six cents and made up of a headless shell extractor, a wooden wiping rod, bit of rag with which to wipe the bore, a screw driver and a score book.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE PROPOSED TEAM FOR CREEDMOOR—THE D.R.A. MEETING TIME.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I notice that there is to be a great competition at Creedmoor about the first week in September. If not mistaken I think the meeting there will be during the same week that our Dominion matches are held. I think also that as a valuable trophy will be shot for on the national range of our American cousins, it would be a grand idea to send a team down to try conclusions with them for the prize. I feel certain that there would be no difficulty in getting twelve of our best Martini shots to volunteer, or some arrangement might be arrived at by which the team could win their place during the D.R.A. meeting, provided that the authorities arrange to have the Dominion matches held a week earlier than usual, and this is the reason that I write now. The meeting for fixing date of matches is held in Ottawa early in February, and it is to be hoped that this question will come before them then. There are other reasons why the Dominion rifle meeting should be held earlier, chief among them being that the weather in unreliable Ontario is liable to sudden changes, which is both uncomfortable for the body and bad for scores (except such as "Old School" desires). It is also a little late for business men and young fellows who shoot during their annual holidays. It is also too late for competitors from a long distance. I have not the least doubt that the council of the D.R.A. do their very best for the greatest number when they know what the "very best" is, but unless someone writes or speaks about these things "the very best" for the greatest number becomes the very best for the few. I trust these few ideas may open the way to a fuller discussion on the question, and that we may be enabled to send a first class team to Creedmoor next September.

BUCKSHOT.

Winnipeg, 21st January, 1890.

The Selection of the "Wimbledon" Team.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I do not suppose that anyone will contend that the present mode of selecting the Wimbledon team (I still use the word "Wimbledor," as, so far, there has been no substitute for it, in speaking of our team, though the place itself shall know us no more) is one that will give the best results.

That the men who go to represent Canada with the Martini should be selected by their performances in competitions in which the Snider is principally used, on the face of it, does certainly look very absurd, and would strike anyone not aware of the difficulties to be contended with in this matter as if the Council of the D. R. A. were trying their very best "how not to do it."

The difficulties to be met are: 1st, that the militia of Canada are still armed with the Snider, and therefore the matches in the D. R. A. are arranged chiefly for that rifle; 2nd, the time required for an exhaustive test with the Martini alone, in addition to that already necessary (nearly a week) for the D.R.A. competition, might prevent many of our best shots taking part. It has been found in the interests of the riflemen, a saving of time and money to them, to make the matches and the Wimbledon team competition run concurrently. So long as the Snider was the arm of the Home Volunteers, I do not think a better plan could have been devised; but as circumstances have so greatly changed in England, I think we are called upon to make an effort to meet those changes as best we can, and not be content to continue a *Laissez faire* policy. To use one of the common expressions of to-day, we must keep up with the procession. In the existing plan there is room for improvement, and even if the Council, in dealing with this matter, which they will be called upon to do very soon now, cannot see their way to adopting some such mode of selection as I shall suggest further on, I trust they will see the advisability of making the change which I now advocate.

The team is now confined to the sixty competitors in the Governor-General's match. No matter how many men there may be with the same number of points for the last place or places in the "sixty" only a number corresponding to the number of places, those who are fortunate enough to win them on the shoot off, have a chance for the team. Why should this be? The Wimbledon Team is not a prize to be shot for. The team is sent to compete with our brother volunteers of the Mother Country, and everything that can be done should be done to make it as strong a Martini team as possible. As it is now, just when the shooting that is a test of a man's fitness for a place on the team has to be done, thirty or forty men (I think I am quite within the mark when I consider there are that number within four or five points of the "sixty"), some of whom by brilliant scores would, in all probability, secure places on the team, are shut out from the chance, and the team correspondingly weakened.

I have frequently seen a man just in the "sixty," by a good score get a place on the team. In 1888 Staff-Sergt. Ashall, Q.O.R. was just one point above the score of the 60th place, but by making 84, a moderate score only, in the Governor-General's match, he went to Wimbledon next year. See what a score a few points better would have done for anyone of the numerous debarred! Under the present arrangement I would have the Wimbledon team open to the first hundred in the Grand Aggregate, or, for that matter, to anyone who thought he had a chance and paid his entrance fee of say \$1.00.

This would not increase, to any great extent, the number of competitors who have to fire on Friday, and there is ample time and target accommodation.

I have now to suggest a scheme for the selection of the team by Martini shooting only, a consummation which I think all will agree that it is very desirable to effect, if at all feasible.

Surely the Wimbledon team is of sufficient importance to devote an additional day to its selection. The only fixtures for Friday are the Governor-General's and Provincial matches. By utilising all the spare time of Friday and adding Saturday, it would be possible I think to have a Queen's range competition on the forenoon and afternoon of each day for those who had entered for the team. My reason for thinking so is, that I do not suppose that more than one half, if so many, of the competitors annually at Ottawa would, from their business relations or personal inclinations, care any one year to go on the team. Consequently as we can shoot the Dominion of Canada match through in one day, and have a couple of hours to spare, with half the number of competitors we can get through it twice. These four shoots, together with the two Martini competitions in the regular programme, would give ninety-eight shots as against ninety-four at present, only thirty five of which are with the Martini. This would be a pretty good test of a man's ability with the Martini, and could not fail to give better results than our present system. All shooting men know what two very different rifles the Snider and Martini are, and how many a man who is an excellent shot with the Snider, fails most lamentably when he comes to use the Martini.

Entries would be made for the Wimbledon team just as for any of the regular matches, and an entrance fee charged. Prizes should be offered, but paid only on the team reporting at Montreal.

But, Mr. Editor, I am afraid I have already taken up too much of your space, and must close. I should like very much to hear from some of our level-headed riflemen on this subject.

E. D. SUTHERLAND.

Ottawa, 23rd January, 1890.

A Young Shot Who Courts Competition.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—In your issue of 5th January "Old School" expresses his opinion on "Encouragement to young shots," and I now desire you to kindly give one of those same young shots a chance to express his. The writer signing as "Old School" without doubt is honest in his intentions, but I for one young shot do not agree with him. He asks for a change in the rules of the rifle associations whereby celebrated shots are to be debarred from winning prizes in order to give young shots a chance. In other words the men who have devoted years to the rifle, who have brought shooting in Canada to its present excellence, and who time and again have won honour for our country at Wimbledon, are to be set aside—laid on the shelf—in favour of men who are their inferiors, either because they are unfitted to be marksmen, or from lack of long practice, of nerve, and application.

What more encouragement had the twenty who this year go to Wimbledon, in learning, than I who handled a rifle last year for the first time?

I went to Ottawa last September and missed the targets oftener than I hit them, never appearing in the prize lists, yet I did not grudge those who, by their coolness, nerve and science, won the prizes, their just reward. Instead, I came away with the resolve that if it were in my power, the next year would tell another tale; if it does not, it will be by a fault of mine which must be overcome sooner or later. No, my "Old School," those young shots who have the jealousy, the lack of ambition, and cowardice you ascribe to them, are far better at home, and let those men who have honestly won their laurels, retain them, till age brings failing powers—may that be many a day from this!

He says "England must think our shots are composed of about 100 men." Well, England would be just about right, and will honour Canada in that she has so many. "Old School" waxes wroth about the appliances used by the "crack shot of the range"; I think he shows a good deal of presumption in criticising the gentlemen who frame the rules of the D. R. A., and it would be nearly as bad for one with so little experience as myself to defend them: let a more able man do that. All honour to "Old School" for his services to our country; and all thanks to him for his plea for young shots; but let young shots

have the manliness to fight their way, else what will Canada be at Wimbledon? or worse thought still, in the battle field, if they have no obstacles to overcome, no ambition to excel, no Mitchells, Gibsons or Margetts to equal.

"OUTERS."

Port Elgin, 25th January, 1890.

The Proposed Efficiency Competition.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I notice in your issue of the 23rd inst. a letter from Captain Harston of the Royal Grenadiers in reference to getting up friendly competitions between the different militia infantry corps of the Dominion. I quite agree with his ideas, and believe that all who would enter into such laudable competitions would be very much benefited by them, from an efficiency point of view, and they would also raise the *esprit de corps*. I hope that some of the leading officers in the force will take the matter up, and put it into practical shape at an early day. But in one part of his letter I cannot help feeling that the ingenious Captain has slighted our battalion (I can hardly believe intentionally), for in speaking of those battalions which no doubt struck him at the time as being the most efficient, he never mentioned the 13th at all. Now I beg to inform the Captain that the 13th should have been placed at the head of the list, at least in their efficiency in the use of the rifle, which after all is the greatest requisite of a soldier on the field. Had he been in our drill hall on the night of our companies drill competitions, and seen the way in which they acquitted themselves, he would not, in writing about the leading battalions, have omitted the 13th. We have performed a grand work in the militia force of the Dominion. As a training school I think I may safely say we have taught a greater number of young men within the last twenty-five years to fairly acquit themselves on the field than any other battalion in the Dominion, and the reason is that our ranks have all along been filled by mechanics, who are of a migratory nature, and do not stay more than two years on an average in one place, so that every year we have to fill up the different companies with recruits, which of course tells against us at our annual inspections; but within the last six months we have got more of a mixed class of young men, who we will be more likely to retain for a longer period of time, than ever we did before. In the same time we have also made a greater stride in efficiency in drill than ever we did in double the time in my recollection. In six months from now our battalion can compete in drill with any other in the Dominion, and I don't fear the result. But I am taking up too much of your space, so I will say no more.

JAMES ADAM,

Captain and Musketry Instructor.

Hamilton, 27th January, 1890.

Paid Adjutants.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—As Parliament has now assembled it will not be amiss to urge upon the members, especially those who hold commissions in the militia, that the feeling is rapidly gaining ground throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, that the affairs of the militia deserve more general consideration with a view to improvement. It is a well known fact that the self-sacrificing officers of our best regiments have not only to give up their time and pleasures, but have to make heavy calls on their pockets in order to keep their regiments up to anything like a serviceable condition, and the people of this Dominion are not so "poverty stricken" or so "mean," as to wish that this state of things should last. If this country was so hard up that it could not afford to provide for its defence, then there would be some reason for permitting our patriotic officers paying the bill wholly out of their own pockets; but it is not so. On the contrary, not a session passes but we see large grants of a liberal character made to all sorts of deserving objects—railways, canals, wharves, docks, harbours, post offices and all sorts of objects which really are of little benefit except as local improvements to the various localities in which they are made, and in the most part, wisely made. If the country can afford to go in for these expensive luxuries does anyone credit it for a single moment that the country wishes that our gallant defenders should be starved to death? No! a thousand times no! The country is fully alive to the absolute necessity of preserving and improving our wonderfully economical "defensive force." That the country also recognizes the absolute necessity of having a body of trained defenders has been shown many times. One needs only to quote to prove this, the unanimity with which the permanent force was established and the expense undertaken, without a grumble, and indeed, with general approval, for the sole object of having schools in which to train our officers and men.

This being so, is it likely that the country would grumble at the very slight additional expense which would be entailed by having paid adjutants? Surely not; and moreover, this move is really a necessity,

especially for the city corps, which are virtually at work all the year round. Even in the Old Country where volunteers (as distinct from militia), are unpaid, it was found necessary to, not only supply *paid adjutants*, but also to *renew* them every five years, so that the volunteers should be kept "au fait" at all the new exercises and drills and ways of doing things. It was also found that under the old system the regimental work was only half done, whereas under the new system the regiments have increased in smartness, discipline and work. In the old country militia, besides the paid adjutants, there is a full staff of paid n. c. o. and drill instructors, and if that is necessary there, how much more is it necessary here, where our militia constitute our sole defending force.

A beginning might be made by appointing as "paid adjutant" a fully qualified cadet from the Royal Military College to each regiment which does its drill at headquarters. A special six months' course in battalion drill, orderly room work and interior economy, etc., etc., might be allowed to those cadets who wish for such an appointment, after they have graduated at the college, and we should thus secure a body of smart and capable young officers whose youthful energy and "go" would soon make itself felt throughout the militia, at a comparatively small cost, for young men who were going to fill up their time, with, say land surveying, would be glad to get an adjutancy and say \$700 per annum attached to it, and the payment of this by the department would be a great relief to the pockets of many a hard working militia officer, and increase the efficiency of the militia. It would however be absolutely necessary that no appointment should be made except on the recommendation of the colonel of the regiment, in the same way as other officers are appointed.

Should this scheme prove successful it might be followed by attaching paid adjutants to the rural battalions, say one adjutant to two battalions which go to camp alternate years. I hope some militia M.P. will take this matter up. I shall take the liberty of bringing other matters to their notice as the session progresses.

THE ODD FILL.

Practising River Crossing.

A recent issue of the *Revue du Cercle Militaire* gives a very interesting account of how in May last two troops of Cossacks swam the Dnieper at Kieff. It says:—"The troops, under the personal command and following the example of Colonel Unkhailoff, commanding the regiment, accompanied by officers of the regiment and its lieutenant-colonel, crossed the Dnieper at a point where the current runs over one and one-half miles per hour, near the bank, and over two miles per hour in the middle, and where the width is over seven hundred yards. The right bank is steep, slippery, and covered with stones and roots; the other bank is sandy, with an easy slope. The passage commenced by sending five volunteers across; they had the difficult task of receiving the horses upon the opposite bank, not allowing them to land at the place where the bank is closed by rafts, but forcing them to go over two hundred yards farther. The troops, preceded by their chiefs, then crossed in column of threes. It was a strange sight to see these heads of horses and men spread over the river and hardly visible from the front of departure. The silence was only broken by the neighing of the horses, which could be heard for a long distance. The head of the column entered the water at twenty minutes past six, and twelve minutes after it reached the opposite bank. The men swam on the "up river" side, most of them holding by the mane; those whose horses moved more slowly, held to the tail; some swam across, holding the reins in the teeth only. The horses were not unbridled."

"A non commissioned officer," continues the writer, "crossed without a horse, eight minutes ahead of the volunteers, and selected the point of landing. The regimental commander announced that those who could not swim or feared to cross might remain on the right bank, but no one excepted this offer. The small boats that had been provided to carry aid in case of need were only used by the spectators. It was not easy to make the horses leave the bank or to get them to cross the current. It was necessary to swim over four hundred yards along the bank at one hundred yards from the shore; besides the horses had to jump into the water from the top of a steep bank. The movement was executed more easily by the horses in rear of the first. Some, moreover, took the current directly; two or three horses, after reaching the middle of the river, wished to return, but were prevented by the Cossacks swimming by their sides; two or three tried to throw themselves upon each other (one on account of fatigue), but their riders succeeded in restraining them. Upon the opposite bank, after resting for five minutes, the return was executed with more order and quickness, the horses moving more willingly, and crossing the current in a better manner. The entire distance in going was over eighteen hundred yards, which made more than two miles for the double trip."

Regimental and Other News.

Bandmaster Lewis, of the 43rd battalion, intends to retire into private life about the 1st of April.

Col. Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen, has been re-elected President of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, has been confined to his home for some days by the common enemy, la grippe.

A movement is on foot to organize in Montreal a French regiment in succession to the old Fourth Battalion, disbanded many years ago.

Lieut. General Laurie, M. P., is not expected to be in the Commons this session, having gone to England to have an operation performed on his leg, which he severely injured more than a year ago.

Lieut. R. C. Brown of the 96th Battalion, and a prominent resident of Portage la Prairie, Man., has been so sick that for a time his death was momentarily expected. He had the influenza, and venturing out too soon a relapse occurred, and inflammation set in.

Assistant Surgeon W. F. Scott, of the 43rd Battalion, was this week elected Mayor of Hull city, for which he has been an alderman for many years. The election is by the council, who annually confer the honour on one of their number. The 43rd are well represented in Hull's governing body, Major Joshua Wright being also a member, having been elected alderman by acclamation a few weeks ago.

The Winnipeg *Siftings* reports the Ninetieth Battalion as in anything but a flourishing condition. Says that paper: "The meeting of Ninetieth non-coms., called for the purpose of organizing for battalion drill, was not by any means a brilliant success, about a dozen only turning out. We noticed present Colour Sergeant Stevenson, Serjts. Symons and Davis, Corpls. Becket and Russell. General regret was expressed at the lack of interest shown in regimental matters by the non-coms and men. We understand that Colour Serjt. Stevenson is leaving the Ninetieth. We are very sorry for this, as he was one of the most enthusiastic and energetic workers in the battalion. It is a great measure owing to the efforts of Colour Serjt. Stevenson that E Company occupies so leading a position in the corps to-day. Things are not at their best with the L.B.D.'s just at present, and men like Colour Serjt. Stevenson cannot but be badly missed from their already seriously depleted ranks."

The Military College ex-Cadets.

The sixth annual meeting of the Royal Military College Club was held at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, last week, Capt. Wm. Davis, 22nd Battalion, in the chair. Among the others present were: Capt. F. W. White, Militia Department, Ottawa; Capt. S. A. Denison, I.S.C., London; Lieuts. Laurie, I.S.C., Toronto; Kenneth Campbell, C Company, Dragoon Guards, England; B. McLennan, C.P.R., Montreal; J. A. A. Smart, Hamilton; D. Mackay, W. A. H. Kerr, W. C. Brough, C.E., A. Evans, C.E., R. A. Brock, I. Homfray Irving, Toronto; Capt. W. E. Van Buskirk, C.E., Stratford; Capt. J. Dixon, G. E. Laidlaw. The secretary's report showed the club to be in a flourishing condition, its membership having increased from 83 to 100 during the past year. The proposal to establish a Royal Military College journal at Kingston, under the auspices of the college staff, had fallen through. The club, through the untiring exertions of the president, Captain Davis and Mr. White, with others, had obtained the issue of a militia regulation providing for the promotion of graduates holding rank in the militia. Attention was called to the non-recognition by the Institute of Engineers, England, of the military college as an engineering institution, and it was thought that this matter could be rectified by the Government.

Major-General J. R. Oliver, C.M.G., was elected an honorary member. The following officers were elected for 1890: President, Capt. S. A. Denison, D Co., I.S.C.; vice-president, W. A. H. Kerr, Toronto; secretary-treasurer, F. W. White, Ottawa (re-elected); committee, Capt. D. M. McPherson, Victoria Rifles, Montreal; Mr. McLennan, Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal; Mr. Drury, "Short Line," Ottawa; Mr. Van Buskirk, C.E., Stratford; Capt. E. Wertell, Royal Rifles. The club has among its members Lieut. D. Stairs, R.E., of Central Africa fame, and Capt. H. B. MacKay, R.E., the latter being the first Canadian to receive the Distinguished Service order. Mr. W. A. H. Kerr, one of the graduates, is now studying law with Messrs. Blake, Lash and Cassels.

The annual dinner was held in one of the parlours of the Queen's hotel in the evening. Letters of regret for absence from the dinner were received from Sir Alex. Campbell, K.C.M.G., Sir Adolphe Caron, K.C.M.G., Sir Fred Middleton, K.C.M.G., Col. Panet, Col. Walker Powell, Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Lt. Col. F. C. Denison, Messrs. R. S. White, M.P., and James Sutherland, M.P. In addition to those at the annual meeting the following were present in the evening: Major Delamere, Q.O.R.; Capt. J. Baldwin, Second Regiment Cavalry; Lieut. W. S.

Lowe, Royal Grenadiers. The toast of "The Queen" was proposed by the chairman, Capt. Davis, and drunk with the usual honours. Capt. Denison proposed "The Army and Navy," and Messrs. Kerr and Campbell replied. The chairman gave "The Canadian Militia" a toast which was replied to by Major Delamere, Captain Baldwin and Mr. Lowe. Capt. Denison gave "The Royal Military College," and Mr. Kerr responded. None of the college staff were able to attend on account of the examinations being on.

Toronto.

Capt. John I. Davidson, of the Tenth Royal Grenadiers, has been elected president of the Toronto board of trade. He is of the extensive wholesale grocery firm of Davidson & Hay.

Capt. Macdougall, Adjutant of C Co., I. S. C., has had a hard battle with la grippe at the New Fort Barracks, but thanks to a good constitution he is rapidly becoming convalescent. His case was quite serious at one time.

A meeting with the object of reviving the Military Institute, is to be held on Thursday evening, 30th inst.

A meeting of G Co., Q. O. R., was held at Keachie's hotel Monday evening, 27th inst. The following were present: Capt. Bennett, Lieut Mercer, Col.-Sgt. Thompson, Sergt. N. B. Sanson, Sergt. Thorne, Corp. Reid, Corp. Leycock and 30 men. After reading the minutes of the last meeting, the following new officers and committee were appointed: Pte. W. F. Stewart; secretary; Col.-Sergt. Thompson, re-elected, treasurer. Recruiting committee—Ptes. Capp, F. C. Worthy, Bastedo, Dumoulin and Linton. Rifle committee—Staff-Sergt. Williams, Sergt. N. B. Sanson, Corp. Leycock, Corp. Reid and Pte. Capp. A committee composed of Ptes. Baldwin, Dumoulin and Langstaff was appointed to organize a company concert to be held early in February.

THE LATE PRIVATE A. HENDERSON.

Military men will learn with very great regret of the death of Mr. Abraham Henderson, brother of Mr. W. R. Henderson, of Davis & Henderson, wholesale stationers, Bay street, at his brother's residence, 259 Sherbourne street, on Friday, 24th inst. Deceased was prominently known in connection with A Company, Royal Grenadiers. For many years he was secretary-treasurer of that company, and the Boomer Rifle Association in connection with it, and it was owing almost entirely to his untiring energy that not only his company but also the regiment were so successful in all their rifle competitions last year. Though he seldom fired a shot he took as deep an interest in shooting as the most enthusiastic rifleman. He always attended the D. R. A. matches to assist when possible the regimental team. He was many times urged to accept promotion, but preferred remaining in the ranks. He was one of the most valuable men in the regiment, and it will be a long time before anyone can be got to fill his place. A little over a year ago he was made the recipient of a heavy gold ring and illuminated address by the rifle association. He was a Past Grand Commander of the Knights of St. John and Malta, and was also identified with other secret societies. Deceased was ill for only a few days, being first attacked with influenza, which developed into congestion of the lungs. He was born at Ottawa, Nov. 5th, 1851.

He was buried with military honours on Monday afternoon, at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Recognizing the work he had done for the regiment, Lt.-Col. Dawson issued a memo requesting a large attendance of non-commissioned officers and men at the funeral.

The Boomer Rifle Association attended in a body under command of Capt. John I. Davidson, with Capt. McLean and Lieut. Lambe. There were also present Capts. Manley, Eliot, Tassie and ex-Capt. Boomer of the Grenadiers. The pall-bearers were: H. Marsh, R. H. Cuseck, A. Scriber, J. Dick, James Brown and H. Morton, all being chosen from A Company. Rev. Dr. Thomas held a brief service in the house, after which the casket was placed on the gun carriage and wrapped in the colours of the nation. St. John's Encampment, Knights of St. John and Malta, under the command of Capt. Bailey and Grand Prior J. A. Cowan, were present, the drill corps of the lodge being in full uniform. When the cortege arrived at Mount Pleasant the usual ceremonies were gone through. Grand Prior Cowan read the service and the military fired three volleys over the grave.

The floral offerings were not numerous, but they were given by those most nearly connected with the deceased gentleman. The employees of Davis & Henderson gave a beautiful anchor, the officers and non-commissioned officers and men of A Company, Royal Grenadiers presented a large and very handsome pillow, with a hand grenade in the centre, the initials "B. R. A." across top and "A Co., R. G." at the bottom. Several wreaths were given by friends of the family and of the deceased.

Hamilton.

HAMILTON, 27th January, 1890.—I have one thing to say about this year's Wimbledon team, for I suppose it is still called so, and that con-

cerns the appointment of adjutant. Hamilton thought the 13th Battalion ought to have the call this year considering there are five of the 13th on the team. Then considering the 13th has a say who has more claim to the position, or a better right of recognition, than the veteran rifle shot, Capt. Adam, on purely shooting grounds. Capt. Adam has done as much, if not more than any one in Canada for rifle shooting; he has upheld the honour of the Dominion several times at Wimbledon and other foreign ranges; has acted as Brigade Musketry Instructor at Niagara Camp with credit to himself and satisfaction to every one else; he has spared neither time nor trouble in bringing on new shots in the 13th; then again no one knows more about team shooting than he does. It would be a graceful act on behalf of the Association, as well as a popular one amongst the shooting men of Canada, to tender the appointment to Capt. James Adam.

Captain J. J. Stuart and Mrs. Stuart have gone on a trip to New York.

The members of the battalion are pleased that the right Major retired from the City Council this year as he will be able to give more of his time to the 13th.

There are going to be strong efforts made this Session to get the Department to give permission to raise a cavalry troop here. I believe Mr. Alex. McKay, M.P., has it in hand. It would be a good thing as there are a great many young men in the city who have military inclination, but do not care for either mud crushing or battery work.

Major McLaren's many friends will be glad to know that he is getting around again. He has had a pretty tough time of it with rheumatism, caught at Kingston while taking that portion of his long course.

There was an item in a local paper lately, that the officers had provided Band Master Robinson with a new uniform. If they are going in for such sweeping reform as this would it not be as well to provide a new Drum Major at the same time.

HAM.

Montreal.

The weekly Spoon Competition of the Victoria Armory Rifle Association was held at the Morris Tube Range on Wednesday, 15th, and Saturday, 18th January.

The conditions were: 200 and 500 yds., 5 shots at each, with sighting shot allowed at each range; 200 yds. score, standing position. Private Keough made the splendid score of 47; 23 at 200 yds. and 24 at 500 yds. The following are the figures:—First-Class Special, Private Keough, 47; Private Cooke, 42; Capt. Busted, 41. First-Class, Capt. Becket, 42; Staff-Sergt. Wilson, 37; Lieut. Carter, 37. Second Class, Color-Sergt. Gorman, 41; Private Miller, 40; Color-Sergt. Gardiner, 34. Third Class, Private Becket, 40; Sergt. McCallum, 37; Private McKay, 33.

A match between the officers of the Royal Scots and the officers of the Vics. was held at the same ranges on Tuesday evening, 21st Jan. The conditions were 5 shots at 200, 500 and 600 yds. Any position. Following is the score, which shows a complete victory for the Vics., their majority being 69:

VICS.		ROYALS.	
Lt. Shaw	64	Capt. Strathy	65
Capt. Becket	63	Major Blaiklock	65
Capt. Busted	61	Capt. Ibbotson	51
Lt. Desbarats	59	Capt. Cameron	38
Lt. Rodden	55	Capt. Foulis	37
Capt. Ross	54	Lt. Ibbotson	31
Lt. Parker	29	Capt. Lydon	30
Lt. Stewart	26	Lt. Simms	27
Aggregate	411	Aggregate	342

Staff-Sergeant Goodfellow's private class for instruction in the new bayonet exercise, company drill and base points and marking, assembles twice a week at the armory. The class is open to all, whether members of the battalion or not, and a large number of officers from sister regiments are availing themselves of this opportunity for improving their drill. The head quarters staff of the 5th and 6th military districts are represented in the person of Colonel Mattice, B.A., and Capt. Roy, B.A., respectively.

The recruits for the fall season have been instructed by Corporal Binmore, who had a small squad on Saturday evening of those who could not complete their course earlier in the winter.

Profiting by their experience of drilling in winter, some of the companies of the Vics. have been making arrangements for a supply of fur caps which it is hoped will be at hand before the next battalion drill on 3rd February.

During the past three or four months the British Admiralty have signed orders for the construction of additions to the navy involving 13¼ millions sterling, and of this nearly 11 millions have been given out in contracts to private firms. The new ships are all in connection with the programme adopted in the last session of parliament.

The Rifle.

The Management of D. R. Association Competitions.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I desire to make use of your columns to address a few words to the manipulators of the Dominion Rifle Association. Now that the shooting season of 1890 is soon to commence, I make a few suggestions for consideration by the D.R.A. Council and others at the annual meeting to be held in Ottawa, Feb. 10th. Your readers will perceive that my suggestions are applicable alike to both Dominion and Provincial Rifle Associations, and if adopted I predict much more successful and profitable meetings. Referring to the D.R.A. match of last year the timing system of tickets is a marked improvement upon the old way of posting upon a blackboard. All will admit the fact. But why stop here? Why not go the whole length and adopt Wimbledon system in toto. It costs nothing, it is no venture, it has been found to work well there, it is the result of a long study of some of the best shots in the world to get riflemen at *edges*, with no possible chance of an advantage for one rifleman over another, while the opposite is possible at matches in Canada. Nor why permit a chance for suspicion that all is not *straight* when a remedy is at hand, as a majority of the D. R. A. management have been on Wimbledon Common, and know how the matches are conducted there. There can be no valid or "true and righteous" reason why it is not adopted by all associations in Canada.

Assuming that we will meet on Rideau range for years yet to come, and taking the targets as they were arranged last year, I would suggest that they be divided into *five ranges*, viz.:—Range 1, including targets A and B, 900 yds.; range 2, including targets C and D, 800 yds.; range 3, including targets E to O, 600 yds.; range 4, including targets Nos. 1 to 13, 600 yds.; range 5, including targets Nos. 14 to 25, 600 yds. Then if it is possible to acquire a strip of land further west, for say, 8 or 10 targets, make this range 6, 500 yds., extra series. If impossible, I would throw open ranges 4 and 5 at stated intervals for extra series matches, at 500 yards. Have the targets in each range numbered from one up. Have the blackboards (upon which the register-keeper marks the score) lettered from A up to the number of targets in the range. Your firing ticket would then read, say thus:—D. of C. match, Monday, Sept. 3, target "A," range 5, time, 9.30 a.m. A competitor takes the ticket, goes to range 5, and finds his target A, which may have been placed by the range officer at his discretion and direction at the extreme left, at the extreme right, or in the middle of the range, and he makes all these changes after the markers are in the butts, and the match is about to commence, so that there can be no possible collusion between the marker and the competitor. How different is the present arrangement! For instance I fire at target 1, first pair; there would be nothing to prevent a marker giving me a full score. I could give four or five markers a list of the time and target upon which I was to shoot during the whole meeting, and all this could be done before a single shot was fired, and who could detect it?

Then again I would follow Wimbledon in *squadding*. Say twenty-five competitors are present from a corps or association. I would place them simply on targets from 1 to 25, and time them all to shoot at the same hour. This would do away with coaching, and with placing a rifle in such a position that the next man could pick it up (all properly sighted), and thereby make a winning score by way of his friend's (probably sad) experience. Thus some young and inexperienced shots get to Wimbledon where they cut a sorry figure for themselves and the country they are sent to represent. They find it very different when thrown upon their own resources. Our country is thereby improperly represented.

In conclusion I say why not follow Wimbledon regulations? Why not? Why, because the D. R. A. management seem to be content to follow in the old rut of usage, without any pretensions at advancement. It is not want of knowledge as to how Wimbledon meetings are conducted that prevents, for many of the D. R. A. management have attended those meetings and know from experience. In 1888 I urged upon the secretary Lt.-Col. Bacon, the necessity of the change above indicated and fully expected to see it in operation last year, but was sadly disappointed. But now that the secretary has been to Wimbledon in command of last year's team, and has had the Wimbledon working ocularly demonstrated to him, I have a hope of the desired change in this year's matches. Again, the revolver and extra series tickets should be timed at the tent where sold by a special officer (or more if required); there would then be no crowding or annoyance at the firing points and competitors could be better distributed along the ranges, and time saved, and a competitor would not be forced to climb up hill, and slide down hill, to know if there were vacancies, tiring and annoying himself half to death, and expunging the spirit of rifle shooting out of his soul, making a labour of what should, and could, be made a pleasure. It would be

also a great relief to the range officer, who would then have plenty of time to properly attend to the duties which he is appointed to perform.

GEO. A. McMICKING.

Niagara Falls, Ont., January 27th, 1890.

The Bulgarian Government, according to the *Neue Freie Presse*, has acquired in Austria 60,000 small-calibre Mannlicher rifles.

The Italian Minister of Marine has demanded an extraordinary credit of $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of lire for the purchase of coal to be stored at Maddalena, Spezia, Messina and Gaeta; and a further million and a half wherewith to provide the naval artillery with munitions of a new type to respond to the requirements of the service.

The King of Portugal in a recent manifesto declares that he has yielded to England under protest, out of a desire to avert bloodshed and save Portugal's colonial possessions, which England could seize in event of war. The American, German and French mercantile houses are taking advantage of the present hostility in England to supplant the British merchants in Portuguese markets.

The annual report of the Secretary of the National Rifle Association of America, notes that during the past year the Creedmore bill, appropriating \$25,000 for the purchase of the West range and such other land as may be deemed necessary, and to make the required repairs and improvements on the present property, was passed at Albany. The fall meeting was opened on Sept. 10th, under most unfavorable weather conditions, which continued for four days out of the five and resulted in a loss of nearly \$700. The Qualification and Marksman's Badge matches for the members of the National Guard, showed no falling off in the interest which has been so steadily growing during the past few years, and resulted in a net profit of \$1,500, which would undoubtedly have been increased had the weather conditions on match days been more favorable. On election day more than 525 competitors were present on the range. The Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand, Jan. 1st, 1890, of \$2,536.71, as against \$2,187.61 a year previous.

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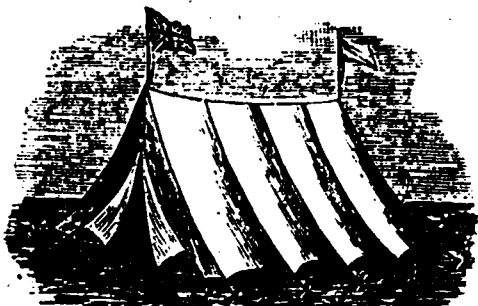
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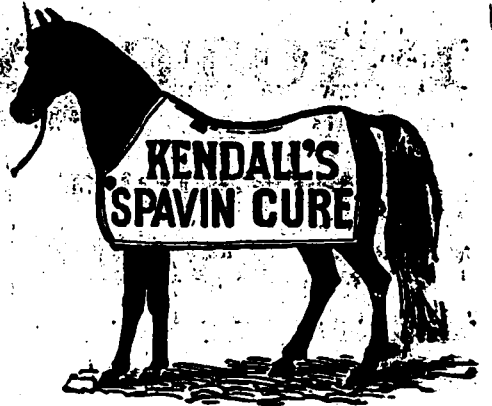
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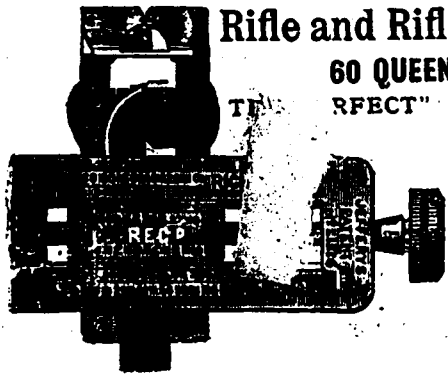
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ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

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., Cobourg Garrison Battery and London, Hamilton and Kingston Field Batteries, be allowed to participate in the Prize List, 1889, notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Secretary.

Toronto, 20th January, 1890.



North-West Mounted Police.

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APPLICANTS must be between the ages of Twenty-two and Forty, active, able-bodied men of thoroughly sound constitution, and must produce certificates of exemplary character and sobriety.

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The minimum height is 5 feet 8 inches, the minimum chest measurement 35 inches, and the maximum weight 175 pounds.

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The rates of pay are as follows:—

Staff-Sergeants.....\$1.00 to \$1.50 per day
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1st year's service,	50c.	—	50c. per day.
2nd "	50	5c.	55 "
3rd "	50	10	60 "
4th "	50	15	65 "
5th "	50	20	

Extra pay is allowed to a limited number of blacksmiths, carpenters and other artisans.

Members of the force are supplied with free rations, a free kit on joining and periodical use during the term of service.

Applicants may be engaged at the Immigration office, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or at the Headquarters of the Force, Regina, N.W.T.

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