

VOLUNTEER NEWS.

Volunteers and others are invited to contribute to this column. All communications should be addressed to "Carbine," and left at the office of this paper not later than Wednesday in each week.

RANGE TIME TABLE.

March 21—District Medal

[BY CARBINE.]

THE annual competition for the District Belt, presented by J. McCosh Clark, Esq., took place on Saturday afternoon last, the day being very good for shooting; a light wind blowing steadily up the range. The entries exceeded last year's 47, this time there being 60 competitors. The conditions were: ranges 200, 300, 400 and 500 yds., 7 shots at each distance, and all competitors 25 points below the highest scorer at the finish of 400 yds., to be counted out. The firing commenced about two o'clock and was finished in the dark. At the completion of 400 yds. it seemed a very open event, for so many men came back with a good score, and all within a couple of points of one another. Vol. Fairs of the Victoria Rifles, firing in the 1st. squad, made the grand score of 30, out of a possible 35 at the 500 yds., his grand aggregate being 106 points. It was thought that this would be the highest, but Capt. Tobin, R.I. Rifles, made a Bullseye in his last shot, and beat the score by one point. The best of the shooting for the long distance was about done, for it was hard to keep the sights on the target, as the evening was drawing in fast. Doughty, Buchanan, Webster, and several others were well up, but had to let their shots go at the longest range.

The committee in future should make two afternoons for a competition like this, or else those men who are out of the running, should stand out, and the ones that are close up take their places, then we could see who was properly entitled to the Belt, by the best shooting, for the light makes a wonderful difference to a man's score.

In totalling up after the finish, Capt. Tobin stood first, with 107 points, Vol. Fairs, second. The winner could not be named, as a protest had been laid by the latter against Capt. Tobin, for using a Paper back sight, this being an infringement on the conditions. The protest has to go before the Range Committee before it can be settled.

The shooting was under the supervision of of Lieut. Haultain, assisted by Lieut. Somers. The highest scorers are:—

	200yds.	300yds.	400yds.	500yds.	Ttl.
Capt. Tobin, R.I.R.	30	29	27	21	107
Pvt. Fairs, V.R.	30	21	25	30	106
Lieut. Smith, A.N.	28	25	29	21	103
Gr. Greensields, 'O' B.	25	25	31	21	102
Gr. E. Buchanan, 'A' B.	30	25	26	18	99
Gr. Payne, 'A' B.	29	24	24	21	98
Sgt. Parslow, 'A' B.	28	22	29	19	98
Sgt. Watson, V.R.	29	20	21	26	96
Gr. Taylor, 'A' B.	26	20	27	21	94
C. Sgt. Skinner, V.R.	25	27	21	20	93
Gr. Henderson, 'A' B.	28	23	23	19	93
Pvt. J. Preston, V.R.	27	26	29	11	93
Pvt. Ino. Preston, V.R.	25	22	23	21	92
Gr. Fairs, 'O' B.	30	19	24	19	92
P.O. Smith, A.N.	30	20	28	13	91
Pvt. Osborne, C.G.	29	14	26	29	90
C. Sgt. Stirling, C.G.	30	20	23	17	90
Corp. Doughty, 'A' B.	27	23	30	10	90
Pvt. Dore, O.R.	26	21	24	16	87
Sea. Weir, T.N.	29	26	23	9	87

Result of 3 men sweepstakes in connection with Clark's Belt:—

Victoria Rifles, 15s. 281 points.
'A' Battery, No. 2 squad, 7s. 6d. 281 points.

This afternoon the competition for the District Medal takes place at the Mt. Eden Range, starting at 1.30 sharp. Marksmen who are efficient volunteers, are only eligible to compete. The conditions are: 200 yds. standing; 300 yds. kneeling and 500 yds. any military position, ten shots to be fired at each distance.

I have received from Lieut. Haultain a programme of the Military Sports, to be held at Potter's Paddock, on Saturday next, March 28. It consists of 22 events, open to Men-of-War's Men, Permanent Force, Police and Volunteers. Great interest is being taken by the Country Mounted Corps for the Lloyd Lindsay's Competition; Victoria Cross Competition and Rescue Match. For the Field Gun Drill teams are expected from H.M.S. "Orlando." Permanent Force Thames Navals, and 'A' Battery. This competition should prove more interesting than that of last year, when only the one corps entered with two teams. All competitions are open to members of forces prior to 1st February. No prize will be given unless three competitors, squads, or teams compete. No second

unless five compete. No third unless eight compete. In the mounted competitions, all horses have to be the property of, and ridden by members of the force. The Sports start at 10 a.m. sharp, the first race being for Bandsmen, 100 yds. with instruments. The Navals are going in for heavy training in the signalling competition, in which squads are to consist of four men. Test messages to be equivalent to twenty words of five letters each. Messages to be sent and received by each man, in accordance with "Manual Army Signalling, 1888." Taking the Programme all through it is a really first class one, and reflects great credit on the energetic committee. The Sports are under the patronage of His Excellency Lord Onslow.

MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?

MR. J. H. PHILLPOT'S CONCERT.

LAST week I attended a very pleasant and successful concert, given in St. James' Hall by Mr. J. H. Phillpot and his pupils, assisted by some musical friends. In criticising such performances it is perfectly ridiculous to set up too high a standard, and by comparing the efforts of learners with the attainments of finished professional executants, or even the best amateur talent, to show off our musical scholarship and critical acumen by cruel and unjust sneers at the failure to attain a perfection to which no claim or pretension had been advanced. A sound discretion was displayed in placing on the programme only *morceaux* well within the resources of learners and ordinary amateurs, thus relieving the audience from the painful trial of listening to futile struggles with over-ambitious selections. A well filled house greatly encouraged the performers, who I will at once say acquitted themselves creditably. A small but compact and well balanced orchestra, quietly but efficiently conducted by Mr. Phillpot, played two selections in good time and tune and with a fair regard to light and shade. Mr. Maitland's song, "Anchored," seemed a trifle low for his voice, but he was rather husky, and I should like to hear him under more favourable conditions. Miss Sime, who sang "Forest Dell," has a pleasant mezzo. She sings well in tune, does not overdo the *portamento*, and is free from the vibrato, but must learn to open her throat, and should go through a course of *sofleggi* on the middle register. Miss Amy Lomer's piano-forte caprice was a creditable performance for one so young. She has a firm, clear touch, but must cultivate *legato* playing. Mr. Knight possesses a robust tenor voice of some promise. He also should go through a regular course of *sofleggi*, etc., and will, I think, make his mark in time. Denza's exquisite song, "Call me back," was nicely sung by Miss V. Plummer, who seemed nervous, I will repeat in her case the suggestions made to Miss Sime. Mr. Davies played the violin obligato tastefully, but made one or two slips which another rehearsal or two would remove. In the trio for ladies' voices the sopranos showed a tendency to drop below pitch. Mr. Ferriday is endowed with a true tenor of good quality. He should work patiently at developing it, and deserves to be heard oftener in more ambitious efforts than ballads. Miss Walker's songs were very successful. In the encore song, "Fiddle and I," the violin obligato was missed—doubtless the music was not handy. Among good quantities of voice and style this lady has a slight tendency to a nasal intonation in some notes, which she should carefully watch and strive to overcome. Artistically the best item was Mr. Davies' violin solo—a transcription from "Il Trovatore." He is the fortunate possessor of a really excellent instrument, and produced a good tone, together with correct phrasing and neat execution. Mr. Phillpot, who directed and played the accompaniments with discretion and taste, is manifestly a competent teacher, doing good and conscientious service to the cause of music in the sphere he has adopted.

GENERAL AND MRS. MITE AND PROFESSOR CANARIS.

ON Tuesday evening I attended the first levee of the Lilliputian pair. They are not dwarfs, for that term implies deformity, whereas the General and his tiny consort are a perfect man and

woman in miniature. The General sings serio-comic songs in a voice which strongly reminded me of the Phonograph. To enable the entire audience to have a close view, the interesting little pair occasionally make the tour of the house, visiting stalls, dress circle and pit. They also dance a schottische with a freedom and energy which betoken the possession of perfect grace and activity. Their respective ages are 26 and 23, the lady being the younger of the pair. The General's title is genuine. It was conferred upon him by President Hayes, and the little warrior declares himself ready, as was "The Minstrel Boy," to gird on his sword and do battle for Fatherland should the United States be involved in war and require his services. Miss Beaumont is a decided vocal curiosity, possessing a low tenor voice as well as a mezzo-soprano; the former is the most pleasing of the two. I do not think she was in her best voices on Tuesday evening, as she was manifestly suffering from a relaxed throat, and I hope to hear her again to better advantage. Nevertheless she did very well. Professor Canaris is an adept in conjuring and sleight of hand dexterities. His quaint foreign accent and phrases add to the amusement of the audience. All his illusions are very neatly executed, and he generously revealed to the audience the *modus operandi* or one of the tricks, which doubtless some of our amateur conjurers will take advantage of. But incomparably the best thing of the evening was the Davenport Cabinet business, of which I have never seen a cleverer exhibition. As a finale he took into the cabinet one of the audience, who was certainly not a confederate. Mesmerising this gentleman, he practised various comical indignities upon his person while concealed in the cabinet, and actually elicited from his victim groans of horror. All this was done while the Professor to all appearance was securely bound to a kitchen chair—the usual tambourine and bell-ringing business going on the while. The victim's blank and vacuous appearance on being released from the mesmeric spell caused roars of laughter. I venture to prophesy large audiences as soon as the Professor's cleverness becomes more generally known.

ORPHEUS.

"Nemo" writes to us as follows:—"Sir,—On perusal of the SPORTING REVIEW of Feb. 14th your article in reference to breeding of racehorses has one or two allusions to horses of the past which I must disagree with. As to Vedette not being within fourteen pounds of Voltigeur must be an erroneous estimate of his form. I think Vidette almost the best horse ever in England; and in confirmation of the fact, Skirmisher, in the same stable, winning many of the principal handicaps with weight, and sixteen pounds would not bring Vidette and him together, but Vidette was troubled with rheumatism, when of course he could not move. Pocahontas was only moderate on the turf, and Seclusion, Hermit's dam, speedy but not first-class. Your remarks as to breeding being a precarious game must be endorsed by everyone connected with racehorse breeding, for it is indeed fitful and uncertain, and no fixed law can be laid down regarding it, although certain points must be taken into consideration." "Nemo" appears to know a great deal about Vidette and horses of that period. I did not know there was any person in Auckland whose racing experience dates so far back. Let me ask him did he ever see Vidette run, and how does he come to the decision that he was sixteen pounds better than Skirmisher? What was said regarding Voltigeur and Vidette was in unison with the opinion of some of the best judges in England, who as well as myself had seen both sire and son race. How does he know that Vidette had rheumatism? I knew owner, trainer, and horse well, and never knew it. He certainly never had it when he upset a big *coup* out of our stable. With regard to Pocahontas, I am quite sure "Nemo" never saw her run, or he must be a very old man. As regards Seclusion, we said she was a very fast mare, nothing about her class. We are perfectly sure "Nemo" never owned one half as good, and would like to have one now, as all the sprint races would be at her mercy. We are afraid "Nemo's" knowledge of racing is more theoretical than practical.—Ed. S. R.]