

A Reminiscence.

By MAJOR HENRY F. PERLEV, H. Q. S.

As the Dominion Rifle Association has passed its twenty-first birthday, it may not be out of place to tell, for the information of its younger members, the story of its formation, and to give, tersely, an account of the first prize meeting.

Early in 1868, it was suggested that an Association, similar to the National of England, should be established in the Dominion, and its importance was brought to the notice of Sir George Cartier, the Minister of Militia, who at once saw the benefit which would result therefrom to the Force he had been so instrumental in creating in Canada, and he authorized the assembling of delegates from each of the Provinces, on the 1st April, 1868, in Ottawa, to draw up a form of Constitution, etc., for such an Association. As it was considered advisable that the organization should assume a national character, the attendance of all members of the Senate and Commons, then in session, connected with or interested in the Volunteer or Militia Force, was requested.

On the 1st April, the following delegates—who may be considered to be the originators of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association—met as requested :

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| Lt.-Col. Moffatt, B. M. London | Lt.-Col. Higginson, 18th Bn. Hawkesbury |
| " R. Lewis, 7th Batt. " | Major A. Macdonald, 11th Bn. St. Andrews |
| Dr. J. Howitt, Guelph Rifle Club. Guelph | Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, A. A. G. Montreal |
| Capt. McClenaghan, 22nd Bn. Woodstock | " McEachern, 50th Bn. Ormstown |
| Major C. Clarke, 38th Batt. Guelph | Thos. Morland, Esq. Montreal |
| Capt. Walker, 24th Batt. London | Lemuel Pope, Esq. ... Robinson, Compton |
| Lt.-Col. Brunel, 10th Batt. Toronto | Lt.-Col. Hon. C. Dunkin, M.P., |
| " Gillmor, 3rd Batt. " | 32nd Batt. Brome |
| " Fairbanks, 34th Batt. Oshawa | B. Chamberlin, Esq., M. P. ... Missisquoi |
| " Tisdale, 39th Batt. Simcoe | Lt.-Col. Cassault, A. A. G. |
| " Villiers, B. M. Hamilton | " Panet, 9th Batt. Quebec |
| Major Scoble, 37th Batt. | " Hon. J. G. Blanchet, M.P., |
| Lt.-Col. Dennis, B. M. Toronto | 17th Batt. Levis |
| Major Thompson, M. P., 37th Batt. | Michael Stevenson, Esq. Quebec |
| C. McGill, Esq., M. P. Hamilton | Lt.-Col. Gallwey, B. M. Montreal |
| John White, Esq., M. P. Halton | " Wily, Commandant. Ottawa |
| A. Lord Russell, Esq. Toronto | " Maunsell, A. G. Fredericton |
| Lt.-Col. Shaw, B. M. Kingston | " Beer. Sussex |
| " Paton, 14th Batt. " | " Hon. J. H. Gray, M. P. St. John |
| " Cubitt, 45th Batt. ... Bowmanville | " Hon. A. E. Botsford, Sen. ... N. B. |
| Major Langmuire, 16th Batt. Picton | " B. Weir, Senator. Halifax |
| Capt. Dumble, Cobourg G. B. ... Cobourg | " J. Bourinot, Senator ... Sydney |
| Lt.-Col. Jackson, B. M. Brockville | Capt. Thompson, Secretary N. S. |
| M. Clarke, Esq., M. P. Prescott | Pro. R. A. Halifax |
| Lt.-Col. Masson, M. P. Terrebonne | Capt. Myers Gray. " |

With these, quite a large number of Senators and M. P.'s assembled. Lt.-Col. Botsford was called to the chair, and Capt. (late Lt.-Col.) Stuart assumed the duties of Secretary. After an address by the Adjutant-General—Col. McDougall—and the subject and object for which it had been called had been fully and carefully explained, a committee of eleven was appointed to prepare and submit a scheme for the Constitution of the Association. This committee met and resolved itself into a select committee of three, viz.:—Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, Lt.-Col. Paton and Capt. Thompson, associated with whom was Lt.-Col. Beer, who drew up the several heads of a Constitution and submitted them to the committee.

On the 2nd April, printed copies of the proposed Constitution were distributed, and after the several clauses had been explained by Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, they were read, discussed and passed, clause by clause. This Constitution in its general character was similar to that now in force, such corrections, amendments and alterations as were from time to time found to be necessary, having materially changed many of its clauses. At first the Council consisted of forty-two members, sixteen from Ontario, twelve from Quebec, seven from New Brunswick, and seven from Nova Scotia, four of whom were a quorum. The President was chosen by the Council from its members, but the Vice-Presidents were to be selected from among the members of the Association. The Council had the sole management of affairs, under by-laws passed by themselves. The annual prize meetings were to be held alternately in the different provinces, and the annual election was to be held at such time and place as the Council should select.

On the 3rd April, the delegates again assembled, and, in compliance with the 8th clause of the Constitution, which provided that the first Council should be elected by the delegates then assembled, and afterwards at an annual meeting, the following were elected :

ONTARIO.

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| Allan Gilmour, Esq. Ottawa | Lt.-Col. Brunel, 10th Royals. Toronto |
| Lt.-Col. Higginson, 18th Bn. Hawkesbury | " Fairbanks, 34th Batt. Oshawa |
| W. J. Morris, Esq. Perth | Major E. O'Reilly, late 13th Batt. Hamilton |
| Lt.-Col. Dickinson (retired).... Cornwall | Judge McDonald. Guelph |
| " Shaw, B. M. Kingston | Capt. A Stephenson, M.P., 24th |
| " Paton, 14th Batt. " | Batt. Chatham |
| Capt. Dumble, Gar. Bt. Cohourg | Capt. McClenaghan, 22nd Batt. Woodstock |
| Lt.-Col. Cubitt, 45th Batt. ... Bowmanville | Lt.-Col. Moffatt, B. M. London |
| C. S. Gzowski, Esq. Toronto | |

QUEBEC.

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| Lt.-Col. Hon. J. G. Blanchet, | Thos. Morland, Esq. Montreal |
| M. P., 17th Batt. Levis | Chas. F. Smith, Esq. Quebec |
| Lt.-Col. A. B. Foster. Quebec | Lt.-Col. Panet, 9th Batt. " |
| " R. Masson, M. P. ... Terrebonne | " Barwis, 55th Batt. |
| " F. Marchand, 21st Batt. St. John's | " J. Grant, 5th Batt. Montreal |
| " C. J. Coursol. Montreal | Lemuel Pope, Esq. ... Robinson, Compton |
| " A. McEachern, 50th Bn. Ormstown | |

NEW BRUNSWICK.

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| Lt.-Col. Hon. A. E. Botsford, | Lt.-Col. Hon. J. Ferguson, Sen. Bathurst |
| Senator. Westmoreland | " F. B. Beer, 2nd Batt. ... Sussex |
| Lt.-Col. Hon. J. H. Gray, M. P. St. John | " W. M. Jarvis, 3rd Batt. St. John |
| " " J. Robertson, Sen. | John Boyd, Esq. " |

NOVA SCOTIA.

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| Lt.-Col. Hon. A. G. Jones, M.P., | Lt.-Col. L. DeV. Chipman. Kentville |
| H. G. A. Halifax | " Hon. J. Bourinot, Sen. ... Sydney |
| Lt.-Col. Hon. B. Weir, Senator. | Major A. K. MacKinlay. Halifax |
| " J. Hudson. | Hon. John Locke, Senator. ... Shelburne |

A committee composed of the Chairman, the Hon. A. E. Botsford; Hon. Lt.-Col. Dunkin, Hon. Lt.-Col. Blanchet, Lt.-Col. Masson and Lt.-Col. Tisdale, was appointed to wait on the Minister of Militia, as a deputation from the delegates, for the purpose of acquainting him with the proceedings of their meetings, to present a copy of the Constitution, and to "respectfully express to him their earnest hope that the Government will make an appropriation in aid of the objects of the Association."

After a few more resolutions, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Secretary, were passed, the work of the delegates was declared to have been completed, and their duties ceased.

Following the dissolution of the meeting of the delegates, a meeting of the Council was held, at which Lt.-Col. Botsford was elected president, Lt.-Col. (then Captain) Stuart secretary, and Col. (then Lt.-Col., D.A.G.) Powell treasurer. A code of by-laws was also framed and adopted, and a finance committee and auditors were appointed, when an adjournment was made until the 5th May, at which a committee was appointed to arrange for the first annual prize meeting at Montreal, and it was resolved that "one-third, as a minimum of the whole funds of the Association be devoted to encouraging the practice of rifle shooting, by allotting such amount in prizes to be divided amongst all affiliated societies in such proportion as the Council may from time to time determine upon."

The Council appear to have met often and to have been well attended. Laprairie was selected as the range, and the "Wimbledon" regulations of 1867, with necessary modifications, were adopted. The Government appropriated \$5,000 and a prize list was prepared.

At the meeting of the Council in August, 1868, it was decided that officers who had retired retaining rank would be permitted to compete in volunteer matches, but that officers, n. c. o. and men who had served five years and retired should not be permitted to compete. Short Snider rifles and Spencer rifles could be used in all matches, and the "regulations" permitted "any description of rifle" in matches open to all-comers, the shooting to be in "any position," and in "All-Comers" and "Dominion" matches, any competitor who did not score 8 points at the first range was disqualified from further competition in these matches. In other matches the disqualification was placed at 4 points.

At this meeting Lady Macdougall presented her well known cup, with the conditions that it should be competed for by "all efficient volunteers or militiamen of the Dominion of Canada, being members of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, with Snider-Enfield rifles, no artificial rests, five rounds each at 400 and 600 yards, any competitor failing to score 8 points at the first or 400 range to be disqualified, and to be won two years in succession by the same person before becoming the property of the winner.

The first match of the Association commenced on the 15th Sept. at Laprairie, and was attended by some 425 competitors, as it is somewhat difficult to ascertain exactly the number present from the statement published in the report of 1868. The matches in which entries were made were the "All-Comers," "Dominion," "Provincial," "All-Comers International," "Affiliated Association," "Military District," "Battalion Match," "Military Match," and the "Macdougall."

The "All-Comers" was shot in two stages; the first, open to all, at 400 and 600 yards; and the second, open only to the 40 highest scores in the first stage, at 800 and 1000 yards. The prize list in this match was as follows :

FIRST STAGE.

5 highest scores.	\$20.00 each.	\$100.00
10 second highest scores.	10.00 "	100.00
10 third highest scores.	5.00 "	50.00

SECOND STAGE.

1st prize.	250.00
2nd "	100.00

27 prizes for 425 competitors. Total. \$600.00