

ary question was to be discussed at Washington during the late negotiations, Major-General Cameron, from his knowledge of the subject, was specially selected to act as secretary to the Canadian delegation. As regards his standing at the Horse Guards, it is such that when one of the Australian colonies requested the Commander-in-Chief to select an officer to organize and command its militia, the Duke of Cambridge at once recommended General Cameron. This appointment, however, for family reasons, he was unable to accept. It will be seen, therefore, that whether we consider Major-General Cameron's appointment in the light of fitness or expediency it will stand the test of investigation. As an officer of distinction, as one acquainted with Canadian affairs, and as having ties which bind him strongly to the Canadian people, he will be welcomed to the Dominion with no ordinary welcome."

The Volksraad of the South African Republic has unanimously and enthusiastically agreed to a union with the Transvaal. *Broad Arrow* describes it as the larger and more fertile half of Cetewayo's territory, acquired by the filibustering Boers from Dinizulu in 1884, as a reward for helping to defeat Usibepu, and the present unfortunate state of affairs, it says, may be traced, without difficulty, to the recognition by the English Colonial Office in 1866 of the said Boer Republic. The union of the two States it regards as the first step towards a South African Federation or Afrikandur Bund, including the junction of the Transvaal with the Orange Free State. Meanwhile, by a treaty recently signed between Her Majesty's government and the Chief of the Matabele nation, Lo Bengula, England has established a protectorate over an area of territory considerably greater than the Transvaal, and extending northward from that State and Bechuanaland to the banks of the Zambesi.

It appears probable that there will be no war in Zululand after all, the British Government, according to cable advices from London, having countermanded the order for sending reinforcements to the Cape of Good Hope. It is supposed that Dinizulu, the son of Cetewayo, has resolved to submit to the British proclamation annexing the Zulu country ta Natal, or that he has been granted a substantial concession in return for his submission.

Respecting a recent inquiry by the *Broad Arrow*, a correspondent of that paper writes as follows: "Referring to a paragraph in your last issue relative to the recent alterations in the Field Exercise, and more particularly to formations from column into line, I wish to point out what appears to be an excellent method, and one that has been adopted by many corps, though perhaps not strictly on the lines of the Drill Book. A column is advancing. If it is desired to form line to the left at the halt, the word of command will be, "At the halt. Left form into line." If it is desired to advance immediately the line is formed, the word of command will be simply, "Left form into line," upon which the left-hand man of the front rank of each company turns to his left and "marks time," the remainder turn half-left and take up the "mark time" when they get to their places in line. When the whole are formed, the word "Forward" is given. This manœuvre can be performed more rapidly than the old "Left wheel into line." In "breaking into column to the right," the same method can be adopted, the words of command being, "Break into column to the right," "Right form," "Quick march," the men marking time in succession, and when the last man has formed, "No. —, halt front, dress," as formerly. I think the abolition of wheeling was distinctly a move in the right direction, but it should go further, and be cut out of the Drill Book altogether for manœuvring, and only hold good for marching-past purposes."

### The Honour School for Riflemen.

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

By the time these lines are in our readers' hands the competitors will have begun to assemble for the twenty-ninth, and unfortunately

for the last, time on that beautiful plateau which has been the scene of the successes of the National Rifle Association year by year ever since 1860, in which year Her Majesty fired the first shot at the first meeting. There have been vicissitudes, but on the whole the Council has been most successful in its arduous task. Grumbling there has been—the V. S. G. in particular spent several years in grumbling at what its conductors held to have been the mistaken views of the Council on certain points. But the necessary changes were soon introduced, and the Council has for a very great many years kept itself thoroughly in touch with the rifle-shooting world, whether volunteers, regulars, or mere civilians. But of the last-named class there have never been many at Wimbledon. Almost all the "cracks," even with the match rifle, and still more with the M. B. L., have generally been members or ex-members of some one of the military services. The Council, we reiterate, has kept its touch with its constituents, as is proved by the utter failure of the few attempts which have been made to inaugurate anything like a radical change of policy. Wimbledon has been made attractive in a variety of ways. But this attractiveness has cost a good deal of money, and there have not been wanting persons who have said, reasonably enough, perhaps, from their point of view, that it would be better to increase the prize money and diminish the festive element. It is quite clear, however, that those chiefly interested have not been of this opinion, for they have gone on from year to year entering for "Wimbledon" in almost inconveniently large numbers, and receiving the percentage that the Association can afford to return them in the shape of prizes out of their entrance-fees with the utmost cheerfulness. Whatever a small minority may think, the festive Wimbledon has always been popular with the great majority of the competitors.

But this is comparatively a small matter. If the prize money given had not been sufficient in the eyes of the competitors, the entrances would have fallen off and the Council would have been obliged to alter their policy. Even if they had been obliged to do so, which never was in the smallest degree likely, they would still have been able to say, as they can say now with justifiable pride, that they have made this nation a nation of riflemen. We have not the least hesitation in affirming that had it not been for that meeting at Spencer House, very nearly twenty-nine years ago, which was presided over by Lord Spencer, and from which the National Rifle Association sprung, rifle shooting would have remained, as it now remains in all European countries, except perhaps Switzerland, the Tyrol, and Upper Austria, a mere matter of military drill. It would have been now as distasteful to the Regular Army as it undoubtedly was thirty—even twenty years ago; and the Volunteer Force, for want of the stimulus of competitive rifle shooting, would in all probability have succumbed altogether to the attacks of its numerous enemies eighteen years ago. It should never be forgotten that it is to the National Rifle Association, and to the annual meetings at Wimbledon, that we unquestionably owe the existence, in almost every regular battalion, of a rifle club—that the "Army Rifle Association" meeting, organized entirely on the Wimbledon lines, is now going on successfully at Aldershot, and that there is hardly a British colony or dependency which has not its rifle association, and which does not look forward to sending, when possible, a team of riflemen to shoot at Wimbledon itself. The National Rifle Association has established itself as the great examining body—the great honour-school for all riflemen. Any British infantry officer or soldier, whether he belongs to the regulars, the militia, the yeomanry, or the volunteers, deems it the highest honour to be selected to represent his corps at Wimbledon. The great Association gives the law on all points of rifle-shooting, not only to the volunteers, but to the regular army. It has shown that competitive rifle-shooting can be made most attractive and eminently fair. A good many people say that the British regulars shoot ill, and the British volunteers worse. This may be the fact, but it is perfectly appalling to think of what the state of military marksmanship would have now been in this country if the National Rifle Association had never come into existence, and the regulars and volunteers had alike been confined to the Hythe class-firing.

However, we are now told by Colonel Howard Vincent and some few other volunteer officers, to say nothing of a number of anonymous and irresponsible writers, that the whole thing has been a mistake, and that the N. R. A. will never do any good till it takes its departure to some desolate spot, well removed from villadom and gentilities, where military discipline can be maintained, and the so-called "pic-nic" element wholly eliminated. The experiment may have to be tried, though it will be a dangerous one. \* \* \* But, under any circumstances, the exclusion from its home of twenty-nine years is a heavy blow and a great discouragement to the National Rifle Association. We must only hope that it may not also result in any serious decadence of the art of competitive rifle shooting throughout the British Empire, without which the mere military practice will never come to anything like a healthy growth.