

Manitoba Rifle Association.

The Annual Meeting—An interesting Report from the Council.

THE annual meeting of the Manitoba Rifle Association was held in a committee room of the City Hall, Winnipeg, on Tuesday the 13th inst. Major Bedson (president) occupied the chair, and those in attendance included Lieut.-Col. Boswell, vice-president; Lieut. Col. Houghton, D.A.G.; Majors Buchan, Coutlee and Steel (treasurer), Captains Swinford (secretary), Bruce, Dow, Knight, Belford and Graburn and Messrs. Kennon, Lamb, Huston, Clark, Lamb, Brundret, Graburn, Shepperd, Williams, Ingram, Taylor, Garbett, Baxter, Sutherland, D. Smith, Griffith, Macklin, Hope, Bleasdel, McMicken and S. S. Smith.

THE FINANCES.

The financial condition of the association is set forth as follows in the report of the council: "It will be seen that a great falling off in our grants and subscriptions has taken place, more particularly from the following sources, viz.: The provincial government, which divided our grant with a western local organization when it was voted for the provincial association; the city council, which refused the customary annual grant, which was, up to last year, placed in their estimates; also the various banks doing business in the city, who have not donated anything to the funds of the association; together with a marked falling off in the amounts subscribed, caused no doubt from the depressed state of business.

"We are in debt to the amount of \$320.89, with only \$1.77 cash on hand. Our expenses have been larger in some instances than in former years, from having to be at considerable expense in improving and repairing the ranges and targets for the annual matches, the inclemency of the weather preventing completion of the matches within the three days; the engraving of cups and trophies which had up to the present year never been done; and the payment of sundry liabilities from the former year."

DONATIONS DURING THE YEAR.

The cups and trophies presented to the association by its various friends for competition during the past year have been unusually numerous and handsome, and the thanks of the association are tendered in the report to the following gentlemen for them: Hon. J. C. Aikins, Lieut.-Governor, Manitoba; Sir Donald Smith, Hon. L. M. Jones, M.P.P.; Hon. Senator Schultz; Major C. F. Forrest, Major Bedson, Major W. R. Bell, Wm. Stephens, C. J. Brydges and H. S. Holt. A magnificent silver cup presented by Sir Donald Smith, was received too late for competition at the annual matches.

The death of three life members is recorded, viz., Lt.-Col. McKeand, Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, C.M.G., and J. H. McTavish.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The council suggest that for the future prizes in the extra series be arranged so that the competitors receive the receipts from such source in each match, less a percentage deducted to cover the expenses.

The association is asked to consider the advisability of changing the place of holding the annual matches from Stony Mountain to a more convenient location, so as to reduce range and transit expenses.

The association expresses pride at having had two members on the Wimbledon rifle team, viz: Staff-Staff C. N. Mitchell and Pte. A. Gillies, both of the 90th Rifles' the latter being the winner of the Prince of Wales' prize, and honoured by a presentation to His Royal Highness at the meeting.

In consequence of the application to the Militia Department for an augmentation of the annual grant, this has been increased by \$250.

The council tender their hearty thanks to Lieut.-Col. Boswell, range officer, and the non-commissioned officers employed on the range and butts for their zeal and efficiency, also to the secretary and treasurer for their unwearied exertions in carrying out the preparations and details of the annual meeting, and in conclusion regret that the shortness of funds alone prevents the printing of the annual report in the usual way.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

Patron—Sir D. A. Smith.

Vice-patrons—Mayor Jones, C. J. Brydges, Hon. Thos. Greenway.

President—Major S. L. Bedson.

Vice-presidents—Lt.-Col. Boswell, Major Buchan.

Council—Capt. Graburn, Staff-Sergt. Mitchell, Capt. Balfour, Capt. Bruce, Dr. Clarke, Capt. Dow, Lieut. K. Graburn, R. Macklin, S. S. Kennon, Major Ruttan, Lieut. Alex. McIntyre, Lieut. Brown, Portage la Prairie.

Messrs. Nursey and Benedict were elected auditors.

Lieut.-Col. D. A. Macdonald, of Ottawa, and Mr. W. B. Scarth, M.P., were appointed representatives on the council of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association for 1888.

Mr. D. Brundrit, retiring auditor, presented his report, which showed the accounts to be in a very satisfactory condition.

The following motion by Capt. Balfour, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Boswell was carried unanimously: That this association desires to convey to its patron, Sir Donald A. Smith, its keen appreciation of the continued interest which he manifests in its affairs as evidenced by the very handsome cup which he has again donated to it for competition, for which the association desires to thank him very sincerely, and that the secretary be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to Sir Donald.

A long discussion on matters of general interest took place, and then the meeting adjourned.

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 ORDNANCE AT SYDNEY, C. B.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I see by the Militia Report, 1888, under the head, "Return of Ordnance, etc.," that Sydney, C.B., is credited with four 9-pr. S.B. guns (these are with the S. F. B.), and also eight 32-pr. S.B. guns. These latter were once mounted on the earthwork at Sydney mines. But are they there now? This is a question that the District Staff might try and answer some of these days. With your permission, I will try and tell "Linch-pin" something about Louisburg, and its present military value.

MILITIAMAN.

SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—If it should become necessary to call out the militia for another North-West trip, would not the following be a cheap and easy way to equip them, viz., issue a canvass cartridge belt, or "bandoleer," such as the N. W. M. P. wear, in place of the old pouch, and an extra havresack in place of the old knapsack. With two havresacks, water-bottle, bandoleer, canteen (slung on the waist-belt behind), rolled overcoat and rubber sheet, an infantry man could carry 100 cartridges and all the "kit" he could possibly require, except blankets. This system has been lately adopted by the Russians, but their havresacks appear to be made of leather. Our old-fashioned knapsack is rather heavy and uncomfortable for the rapid movements required in the North-West, and in fact was carried on waggons during the last campaign. The equipment used in the regular army is open to the same objection, weighing with the pouches 5 lbs. 4 oz. empty, and the pouches on the waist-belt in front are disagreeable to lie down on. The equipment I speak of is cheap—weighs very little in itself—and is not much in the way of a skirmisher. A battalion equipped in this way could be mounted without necessitating any change; they could fasten their overcoats and pouches to the saddles, but you could not mount a man with a knapsack or valise.

VOLUNTEER.

Toronto, 14th March, 1888.

Queries and Replies.

SOCIAL PRECEDENCE IN CANADA.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—A correspondent recently asked a question about precedence. The following is, I believe, the correct sequence for the persons named:—

The C. M. G.	Colonel.
Eldest son of a Baronet.	Consul.
Eldest son of a K. C. M. G. or K. C. B.	Lieut.-Colonel.
Younger son of a Baronet.	Major.
Younger son of a K. C. B.	Vice-Consul.
County Judge.	Captain.
Barrister.	Lieutenant.

Justices of the Peace, Barristers, Bachelors of Divinity, Law, or Physic, and Military Officers down to the rank of Captain inclusive, rank as Esquires. But the Canadian table of precedence places the General in chief command of H. M. Troops next after the Governor-General, and other general officers serving in the Dominion rank between Privy Councillors and Senators.

X.

PARAGRAPHS 55 AND 74, REGULATIONS AND ORDERS.

Q. Please explain paragraphs 55 and 74, R. & O., 1887. (1.) What course should a commanding officer pursue so as to have the provisions of these paragraphs carried out or have his subordinate officers retired from the service? (2.) Who is the judge of an officer's medical unfitness for service? (3.) What really constitutes "left limits" and how can retirement be enforced? (4.) Who can and does grant leave to reside permanently "out of limits?"

RICOCHE.

Ans. (1.) Report the facts to headquarters, through the usual channel. (2.) The surgeon of the corps. (3.) Ceasing to be domiciled within the defined limits, or contiguous thereto so as in the opinion of the commanding officer to be conveniently accessible. Retirement can only be enforced through report to headquarters. (4.) No one.

Lieut.-Col. O'Malley, the officer who for the past thirteen years has held the command of the 25th battalion, is about to retire from the force, to which he has rendered excellent service during his long connection.