

Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.

SEVENTH ANNUAL PRIZE MEETING.

A LARGE ATTENDANCE, SPIRITED COMPETITION, AND SPLENDID WEATHER

[Not being able to attend all the matches of the Dominion Rifle Association, and as our Contemporary the *Times* has a very full report of them, we have concluded to copy them from its columns.]

The seventh annual prize meeting of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association commenced at the Rideau Range this morning under the most favourable auspices. The weather was all that could be desired, bright and clear, and just as much wind prevailing from the northwest as kept the atmosphere cool, without interfering with the shooting. The spectators also mustered in good numbers and seemed to take a lively interest in the proceedings, as well they might do, for the scene was a most animate one. The various tents pitched formed quite a little camp, and the Union Jack floated over many of them; the bright uniforms of the military contrasting strongly with the more sombre garments of the civilian competitors, created a panorama of the most pleasing character. Lt. Col. Stuart assisted by Capt. Brown Wallis and Capt. J. Walsh, G. G. F. G., had charge of the Secretary's office and these gentlemen, with Col. Bacon, the statistical officer, were most obliging to the members of the press in affording all the information and facilities that laid in their power. They provided a spacious table in the statistics office for their use, thus they were saved the inconvenience of writing in the open air. The shooting on the whole was excellent, several of the Wimbledon men fully sustaining their reputation as shots. At half past ten o'clock the muster of competitors for the meeting was complete and a general move was made for the 200 yards range in the All Comers' match, when the first shot was fired by Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant General. At this time there were upon the ground besides the officers above named Lieut. Col. Beer, New Brunswick; Major Ritchie, (late Secretary to the Provincial Rifle Association, Nova Scotia), Lieut. Col. Lamontagne, Quebec; Lieut. Colonel Bacon Montreal; Lieut. Colonel Worsley, Capt. Weatherly, Major Mattice, B. M., Col. Chamberlin, Capt. J. J. Mason, 13th Battalion, Lieut. J. Adam, do., (both Wimbledon men,) Major White, and a host of officers of the Guards, many of the latter acting in the capacity of register keepers at the different points. The bugle having sounded "Commence Firing," the targets were hoisted into their places. Col. Powell delivered a shot at No. 1 target, scoring a bull's eye. A gun belonging to the Field Battery, stationed on the hill, was fired, and squads went to their posts and the match commenced in earnest. Most of the competitors from a distance had never seen the Brunel target before, and were loud in their praises of both it and the style of marking. The arrangements altogether this year are much better than they have been in any previous one. A line of telegraph was laid from the butts to the firing point, so that in case of any dispute arising as to the location of a bit, the question can be settled without the delay occasioned by a visit to the target. There was also a telegraph office under the charge of Mr. George Macdonald, for the despatch of messages to any part of the Dominion, thus those who wished to communicate the results to their friends at a distance,

could do so easily. The corps represented are the Ottawa Battery of Garrison Artillery; Governor General's Foot Guards, and the Metropolitan Rifle Association; 10th Royals and 2nd Queen's Own, Toronto; 13th Battalion, Hamilton; 41st Brockville; 42nd, Ramsay; Hastings Rifle Association; 73rd Battalion, Nova Scotia; 63rd Battalion, Halifax, N. S.; 5th Battalion, Quebec; Wakefield Infantry; Prince of Wales Rifles, Montreal; Garrison Artillery, Montreal; 50th and 60th Battalions, Eastern Townships 54th Battalion, Richmond, 8th Cavalry, New Brunswick.

In the All Comers' Match there were 135 entries against 115 last year, an increase which shows the increasing popularity of rifle shooting in the Dominion. While the first stage of the match was being shot, a large addition was made to the visitors, among whom were noticed the Hon. the Minister of Militia, Mr. Allan Gilmour, Mr. T. D. Harrington, Mr. J. M. Currier, M. P., Mr. John Langton, Capt. Stewart, Ottawa Field Battery; Dr. Malloch, G. G. F. G.; Dr. Bentley, Ottawa Field Battery; Capt. Grant, Major Macdonald, Mr. E. C. Barber, Major White, winner of the Elkington Cup at Toronto; Capt. Graham, Halifax Field Battery, and several others whose names our reporter was unable to ascertain. By the way, here it may be as well to remark that the very efficient staff of markers was under the charge of Captain Weatherly, who acted as range officer throughout the day, having with him Sergt Major Keating, Mr. Cawdron was the armourer, but his services in the shape of repairing damages to rifles were not required throughout the day. At noon the first stage of the All Comers' was not concluded, and the gun having announced the hour, the bugle sounded cease firing and a general dispersing was made in search of edibles. A capital luncheon, given by Lt. Col. Gzowski, President of the Association, which was spread in a spacious marquee for the entertainment of a large number of invited guests. The repast was got up by Mr. Kavanagh, of the Queen Restaurant, and it is only sufficient to mention his name as being the caterer to vouch for the excellence of the viands. Col. Walker Powell presided, having on his right the Hon. Mr. Vail, and on his left Mr. J. M. Currier, M. P. Most of the gentlemen before mentioned were present. After a due amount of attention had been paid to the comestibles Col. Walker Powell said as there were several gentlemen present who were obliged to leave in a short time he would request all present to fill their glasses and drink a toast which he felt sure all would honour most loyally. He gave them "The health of the Queen."

The toast was honoured by three most vociferous cheers.

The gallant Colonel then proposed the "Governor General," alluding to the interest His Excellency had always taken in all that pertained to the militia system of Canada.

This toast was also received with enthusiasm.

The next toast from the chair was that of "the Minister of Militia." The chairman said in proposing it, that he had always found the Hon. Mr. Vail during the intercourse he had had with him in the department of which he was the head, to be ready to do all in his power to render assistance to the militia of the Dominion. He therefore called upon them to drink his health with all the honors they could.

Those around the table immediately stated in song that the Hon. gentleman was

"a jolly good fellow," and cheered him most enthusiastically. On silence being restored.

"The Hon. Mr. Vail, rose to respond. He said when he visited the range that day he did not expect either to make a long stay, or to be called upon to speak, and had there not been so many present, whom he had not had the pleasure of having met previously, he should not have made a speech at all. He felt glad to see so many who had come from the remote parts of the Dominion, as it was a proof that those who composed the Volunteer Militia would not allow difficulties or small affairs to deter them from doing their duty to their country, at cost of their time and their means. He looked upon such meetings as the one at present in progress as being a proof of their patriotism. (cheers). In speaking of the competition for admittance to the Wimbledon team, the Hon. gentleman said he was glad to see that it had been decided it should take place this year in Ottawa. He was not in the secrets of the Dominion Rifle Association, and therefore he could not say whether it was the intention to hold the competition every year in Ottawa, but he thought it would be well to hold them over the same range, so that all should compete to the same advantage, that is on the same ground and the same weather. This was a matter, of course, for the association to decide. The Canadian volunteers have now earned for themselves a world wide reputation, and he did not know whether it was wise to send the team to England each year. The money expended in that way might be applied to the uses of the various provincial associations, and he hoped that the requirements of the latter would be taken into consideration. He thought that the sending home of the team once in three years was also a matter worthy of thought, as it would effect a saving to the funds of the Association, to the benefit of those in the provinces. The Wimbledon team had done well, and the people in England knew what they can do and they could afford to forego their trip for a year or two. The Hon. gentleman proceeded to say that during the nine or ten months he had been at the head of the Militia Department, he had had reason to be proud of the Canadian forces. He had taken occasion to visit one of the largest camps in the Dominion this summer, that at Niagara, and he was most gratified at what he saw there. The orderly and soldier-like conduct of the whole was most creditable to the officers, the men and the system adopted. The Dominion had reason to be proud of such a force; he also visited the camp at Halifax, N. S. where he had the pleasure of distributing the prizes to the successful competitors in the matches, and he had, in addressing them, pleasure in saying that they were quite equal to the Volunteers of Ontario. He thought those in the Lower Provinces, in a measure, lacked the enthusiasm which characterized those in the Upper. The Nova Scotians had the advantage of having Imperial troops quartered among them, and of course that gave them an opportunity of having a thoroughly well disciplined body of men to copy from. There were a class of persons who characterized the volunteers as playthings, but the very same people were the most glad to fall back upon them on the first sign of a civil disturbance (hear, hear.) He looked upon the force as being a most important one, both as a defensive measure and also as one for the prevention of commotions in the Dominion. For himself he would say that he should be most happy, either as head of the Militia office, or on the floor of Parliament, at all