

true position, and future of their country; and the Government of England of late years, has not apparently fully appreciated the position and responsibilities of the empire now: or they would have been more earnest in providing such an organization of the people by land and by sea, as would have ensured the fulfilment of our duties to our colonial dependencies, and would have prevented the alarms about the security of our trade, and even of our shores, to which we have been lately subject.

But there is another remarkable point of similarity between the two epochs. There are clouds appearing in the peaceful horizon that has surrounded these islands for half a century. We have been told by high authority, that the religious question in Europe is tending in directions that can hardly be settled peaceably; and a new power has arisen in Europe, whose aspirations after sea commerce are most likely to bring her into some sort of collision with the great maritime nation of the day. These aspirations may be perfectly legitimate, and may indeed be a necessity; just as it was indispensable for Spain to add Portugal and other maritime countries to her dominions, in order to carry out her mission in the rest of the world. But it is not the less a necessity for us to preserve the power placed in our hands by Divine Providence, for our mission in the world. Let us hope that if the political sky is once more overcast by these two ancient elements of discord, the Government of Queen Victoria will not, like that of Queen Elizabeth, trust so much to subtle diplomacy, and to the skill and devotion of the few soldiers and sailors in the Royal Service; but that, taking warning from that story, they will prepare the the country well beforehand, so that we shall not be in danger of losing any of that dominion by land and sea, which has been growing under our hands, ever since those gallant English seamen defeated the Spanish Armada.

RIFLE COMPETITION.

EASTERN BLOCK VS WESTERN AND CENTRE BLOCKS.

On Saturday the 21st inst the customary annual match between the Eastern and Western Blocks, which, until last year, has always resulted in favor of the latter. Since that time, changes in the Service have added to the strength of the Eastern team, and, therefore to make the match more even, Major White was allowed to select also from the employees in the House of Commons. The contestants were so evenly matched, that until the scores of the last two men completed, it was impossible to say which would win. The prize, a cup or beer mug to be given by the losers to the highest score on the winning side, was won by Captain Macpherson, of the Finance Department. The ranges were 200, 300 and 500 yards, five shots at each, no sighting shots allowed. The weather was most unfavourable. A high wind prevailed all day, and about 4 o'clock a heavy thunderstorm rendered it necessary to stop firing for a time. The following are the scores:—

EASTERN BLOCK.

	200	300	500	T'l.
Capt Macpherson.....	19	17	18	54
Sergt Clayton.....	19	14	16	49
Sergt Sutherland.....	20	7	19	46
Corp Reardon.....	19	11	15	45
Pte Gray.....	18	10	15	43
Mr De Boucherville.....	22	8	12	42

Pte Newby	19	5	13	37
Mr Langton	12	11	12	35
Mr Goodeve	15	13	7	35
Mr Brewer.....	10	10	12	32
Staff Sergt Barber	12	5	11	28
Mr Blackmore	17	2	2	21
Total	202	113	152	467

WESTERN AND CENTRE BLOCKS.

	200	300	500	T'l.
Capt Boswell.....	18	16	15	49
Pte Boswell	20	13	15	48
Capt Birret.....	18	15	14	47
Capt Welsh.....	20	13	11	47
Corp'l Throop	18	17	11	46
Capt Patrick	12	11	19	44
Major White.....	18	15	8	41
Pte Waldo.....	20	11	8	39
S Corp White	13	8	7	28
Pte Egleson.....	9	10	7	26
Staff Sergt Benjamin.....	9	9	4	22
Capt Weatherley.....	10	4	5	19
Total	185	144	127	456

RIFLE MATCH.—On Saturday, the shooting for the Governor General's medal was continued at the Rideau Rifle Range, with the following result:—

	500	600	T'l
Capt Todd.....	15	21	36
Sergt Sutherland	19	16	35
Pte Newby.....	13	20	33
Pte Leighfield.....	12	20	32
Capt Macpherson.....	18	13	31
Pte Cutton.....	20	11	31
Pte Thompson.....	17	13	30
Col Sergt Graburn.....	21	9	30
Corp Throop.....	11	17	28
Sergt Clayton	16	8	24
Pte Gray	15	7	22

HASTINGS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The Annual Matches.

The seventh annual prize meeting of the Hastings Rifle Association was begun (Monday-morning the 23rd) under highly favourable conditions. The weather was all that could be desired, the atmosphere being mild and the sun bright, with no wind stirring to swerve the well directed bullets from their flight towards the targets.

Shortly after 10 o'clock the first shot was fired by Mrs. S. S. Lazier, wife of Major Lazier, President of the Association, who opened the meeting by making a veritable "bull's eye," which was scored accordingly. Firing was then begun at the 200 yards range of the All Comers' match, in which some excellent shooting was made.

There is a considerable falling off in the number of competitors in this match from last year, but this can be partially accounted for by the fact that the Metropolitan matches begin at Ottawa to-morrow also the matches at Bath, which have drawn off a number of marksmen who would otherwise have entered the lists here. In addition to all the local "crack shots," there is a strong delegation present from Kingston, composed of Master Gunner Creggan, Sergt. Miller, Private Clark, Sergt. Baily, Capt. Baily, M. Strachan, M. D. Strachan, Pte. Hume, and Sergt. Kincaid, Brockville sends us Ensign Wilkinson of the G. T. R. Brigade. The competitors number 26, and some close shooting may be looked for.

Lieut. Harrison, of the 49th, is officer of the day.

Wimbledon targets and scoring have been adopted, a bull's eye counting 5; a centre 4; an inner 3; and an outer 2. Any shot which

strikes outside the circles is accounted as a miss, although it may hit the target. Under these regulations, the target is much reduced in size.

The following are the names of the prize winners in the

FIRST MATCH—ALL COMERS.

Open to All Comers. Ranges 200 and 500 yards. Number of rounds at each range, 5. Position, any. Entrance fee, 50 cents.

	T'l. Prize
Pte Tammadge, 49th Batt.....	43 \$10.00
Col Sgt Cunningham 49th ".....	41 8.00
Corp Hilton, 49th ".....	37 6.00
Sergt Gerow, 15th ".....	36 6.00
Sergt M Strachan, 47th ".....	36 4.00
Lieut Cockburn, 15th ".....	35 4.00
Sergt Hart, 15th ".....	34 3.00
Pte Hume, 14th ".....	33 3.00
Hos'l Sergt Bennett, 49th ".....	32 2.00
Pte Burke, 49th ".....	32 2.00
Pte Carruth, 49th ".....	32 1.00
Capt Strachan, 47th ".....	31 1.00

On Saturday of last week a Rifle Match was held at the County Range, Chatham, by the Northumberland County Association. The targets used were of the new Wimbledon pattern and the rules as to position in firing etc, were the same as recently adopted by the Provincial Association. The ranges were 200, 400 and 600 yards, five rounds at each. The winners were as follows:

	Points.	Prizes.
Sergt. Andrew Hay.....	36	\$8.00
" Alfred Pallen.....	36	7.00
Gunner T. W. Russel.....	33	6.00
Bomb. Wm Mather.....	30	5.00
Sergt. James Pallen.....	30	4.50
Pvt. Alex Dick.....	29	4.00
Capt Wm Fenton.....	29	3.50
Gunner H. Pallen.....	29	3.00
Capt Hutchison.....	29	2.50
Lieut James Gray.....	28	2.50
Bomb D T Johnstone.....	27	2.50
Sergt John Thomson.....	27	2.00
Pvt Joseph Forrest.....	27	2.00
Bandsman H F Letson.....	26	2.00
George Cameron.....	25	2.00
Pvt Charles Russell.....	25	2.00
Sergt J Fotheringham.....	24	1.50
Sergt Robt Loggie.....	24	1.50
Gunner James Ferguson.....	23	1.50
Lieut D G Smith.....	23	1.50
Corp'l Alex McDonnell.....	22	1.50
Sergt Allen Cameron.....	22	1.00
Pvt John Wells.....	22	1.00
Pvt John Pallen.....	22	1.00
Major F F Gillespie.....	21	1.00
Lieut J W Fraser.....	21	1.00
Sergt Wm McMaster.....	20	.75
" Alex McKnight.....	20	.75
Corp'l Alex Forrest.....	20	.75
Pvt Dudley Perley.....	20	.75
Pvt James Perley.....	18	.75
Capt S U McCulley.....	18	.25

The wind blew fitfully down the range, first from one side, and then from the other, rendering accurate shooting, especially at the longest range, almost impossible. Some of the prize winners carried up good scores from the 200 and 400 yds. ranges and did not find the target at 600 yards. In addition to the cash prizes, Lt. Col. McCulley gave a silver watch to the marksman who, not having taken a prize at any previous meeting of the County Association should make the highest score at this. The fortunate man was Pte. Alex. Dick of the 73rd Batt.

After the regular match a number of the competitors in 50 cts. each making a total sum of \$13.50 which was computed for at the