

greater feats in military organization and quiet swiftness to a certain end, which is the truest kind of military genius, are on record. War with the perfect material of our day is less the science of killing than of saving men. Any *sabreur* can fight—all have courage—but your Shermans and your Napiers have the gifts divine—brains to plan and self-reliance in execution. The Abyssinian expedition was successful before a gun was fired at Magdala, a West Point Cadet could have captured Theodore—not five generals in the world could have reached him with a corps intact as did Napier.

#### PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

On Friday last the first Session of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada was formally prorogued by His Excellency the Governor General, after assent was given to all the Bills passed during the Session with the exception of the following which were reserved for Her Majesty's approval.

An Act respecting the Treaty between Her Majesty and the United States of America, for the apprehension and surrender of certain offenders. An Act to fix the Salary of the Governor General. An Act for the relief of Joseph Frederick Whiteaves.

Then the Honorable the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed His Excellency the Governor General, as follows:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Commons of Canada have voted the Supplies required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the Public Service.

In the name of the Commons, I present to Your Excellency a Bill, intitled: "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service for the financial years ending respectively the thirtieth day of June, 1888, and the thirtieth day of June, 1889; and for other purposes relating to the Public Service;" to which I humbly request your Excellency's Assent.

To this Bill the Royal Assent was signified, in the following words:

In Her Majesty's name, His Excellency the Governor General thanks Her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill.

After which His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the First Session of the First Parliament of the Dominion with the following

#### SPEECH:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I am glad to be enabled to release you from further attendance to your duties in Parliament.

The Acts which you have passed for remodeling the Militia Force of the Dominion, and securing the defence of your territory, will, I trust, accomplish the objects which you desire to obtain.

I hope the measures which have been adopted for regulating the fiscal system of the Dominion will tend to the promotion of Commercial enterprise, and to the stability of the public credit.

I congratulate you on the passage of the Acts by which the Executive Departments of the Dominion have been organized, and their efficiency provided for.

I must express my regret that the measures for the Assimilation of the Criminal Law of the several Provinces of the Dominion which were submitted by my directions to Parliament, have not been presented for the sanction of the Crown.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public service, and I am satisfied it will be applied with a due regard to efficiency and economy.

Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen:

I rejoice that I am in a position to congratulate you on the general prosperity which prevails through the Dominion, and I feel assured that on your return to your homes you will exert yourselves in promoting obedience to the laws and inculcating attachment to the free institutions under which it is your happiness to live.

The SPEAKER of the Senate then said:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Commons:

It is HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S will and pleasure, that this Parliament be

prorogued until Wednesday, the first day of July next, to be here held, and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued until Wednesday the first day of July next.

#### METROPOLITAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday last this Association met in the City Hall, Ottawa, pursuant to notice, the meeting was well attended, all the corps in the metropolitan counties being represented. Major Forrest, O. P. B. G. A., having taken the chair, two minutes of the former meeting, and some other communications were read by the Secretary, Capt. Perry. After which the constitution was read and adopted, and the following officers elected:

*President*—Lieut. Col. W. F. Powell.

*Vice President*—J. M. Currier, Esq., M.P., Dr. Grant, M.P., John Holmes, Esq., M.P., and Alonzo Wright, Esq., M.P.

*Council*—Majors Forrest, Grant, Bearman, Seale; Captains Perry, May, Morgan, Forsyth, Parsons, Higginson, Corbett, Brush, McGillivray, Ashford, Craig; Lieutenants Clarke, Gemmill Mowatt, Graham, Falls, Armstrong; Quarter-master Lang; Surgeon Garvey; Adjutant McPherson; W. B. Lindsay, Esq., T. D. Harington, Esq., Nicholas Sparks, Esq., W. P. Lett, Esq.

The meeting then adjourned to allow the Council to proceed with their business. In accordance with letters received, His Excellency the Governor General and their Excellencies the Lieut. Governors of Ontario and Quebec were appointed patron and vice patrons respectively. The Secretary was requested to write to several gentlemen requesting them to become honorary vice-patrons, and in the event of their acceding, they shall be placed on the list of honorary vice-patrons.

Captain Perry was then elected Secretary, and a by-law will be made appointing Lieut. Gemmill as Assistant Secretary. Capt. May was appointed Treasurer, after which the following members of the Council were constituted a

*Managing Committee*—Majors Forrest, Grant, Seale; Captains Brush, Higginson, McGillivray; Lieutenants Clarke, Mowatt, Graham, Falls.

A resolution was passed requesting the gentlemen in whose hands are the surplus funds of last year's tournament, now amounting to over sixty-six dollars, to pay the same over to the Treasurer, on account of the Metropolitan Rifle Association.

The Ottawa Field Battery, under the command of Capt. Forsyth, was inspected last Thursday by Lt. Col. Jackson, B. M., who expressed himself highly satisfied with its efficiency. The Capital may be proud of possessing one of the best Field Batteries in the Dominion.

EDINBURGH REVIEW.—We have received from The Leonard Scott Publishing Company of New York the April number of this Review containing some very interesting papers on the current literature of the day. This reprint is fully equal in typographical execution to the English publication.

It is reported that Colonel McDougall, Adjutant General of Militia, intends to resign his appointment from the first October next.

#### BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE

##### FROM MONTREAL.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Your able correspondents have so completely showed up the defects of the late Militia Bill, that it has left me but very little to say on the matter. The passing of a new Militia Bill was looked for here with great anxiety as it was expected to remedy the many defects in the Volunteer system, but what is the result; the feelings and wishes of the force have been entirely ignored, and a Bill is passed which increases the discontent, and takes away the last iota of encouragement from our brave volunteers. The grievances and faults are varied and numerous, why doesn't the Government take the opinions of those actually connected with the force, who have a real and patriotic interest in it, and let matters be put into some more acceptable shape than they are. I would recommend the suggestion of one of your correspondents that more power be vested in the officers, for it is impossible if the officers have not the respect of the men to maintain that discipline so requisite; if the officers in actual warfare exact obedience and discipline in their men, why not endow them with the same power in time of peace. It is not my intention to go into an analysis of the defects of the present Bill as I would be only repeating what has already been discussed in your valuable paper.

Our drill hall is now progressing very fast, but it seems they are building it without any consideration as to means of defence. A building, one of the chief purposes of which are the storing away of arms, ought to be provided with an easy means of defence in case of tumult. In this case very large windows are being placed in the outside walls, which is certainly not very judicious. The windows should consist of strong and narrow apertures, which might also serve for loop-holes if necessary. Another matter that should be rectified before it is too late is the deficient means of admitting daylight into the building, which will convert it into a dingy tunnel. The pitched roof will be covered with sheet iron, and the only means of admitting light will be by Dormer windows in the roof as there is no space for windows in the main walls above the roof of the armories on either side. All these facts have been persistently urged upon those who are responsible and as persistently disregarded. In the plan projected by Col. Smith and other competent men, and by them submitted to the corporation all the points were agreed upon, and assurance given that they should be embodied in the plans of the architects, but their pledges have been totally disregarded.

A great mistake of the Government, especially in these critical times, is their leaving the armories without any guard. There is really nothing to prevent half a dozen resolute men from forcing their way in and helping themselves. This is really a serious matter, it shows a want of judgment, and a recklessness extremely culpable. I am told the Grand Trunk is given a Government allowance for the protection of their armories, and why should they command any preference?

Private Bell, of the Prince of Wales Volunteers, died last week, and was buried with military honors. The band of the regiment with a firing party preceding the cortege, which was followed by a numerous body of his friends.

Col. Pilon, R.A., was on Monday evening the recipient of a very gratifying testi-