

THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE MILITIA OF CANADA.

The first semi-annual meeting of the Officers' Association of the Militia was held in the Railway Committee room, House of Commons, Ottawa, on Wednesday, April 5, 1899. Major-General Hutton, C.B., A.D.C., president, in the chair.

General Hutton, in opening the meeting, said that the minutes of the previous meeting having been printed in a booklet and circulated, it might not be considered necessary to have them read.

On motion of Lieut.-Col. McLean, 62nd Fusiliers, seconded by Major Macdonald, 48th Highlanders, the minutes were taken as read and adopted.

General Hutton then referred to his preface and to the letter he had written the Secretary, both of which were printed in the booklet, in regard to the amalgamation of the Officers' Association and the United Service Club. The General emphasized what he had written in his letter, that union is strength, and did not consider that there was room in Canada for two associations with practically the same object. He was of opinion that a service organization, whether called a club or institute was immaterial, centralized in Ottawa, would make a rendez-vous for officers from all over Canada, and would be of incalculable value to the service. Such a club or institute would contain a military library in which books of a technical nature would be available as well as the official publications of the War Office. In his opinion, a well-stocked military library was essential to Canadian military progress. A military museum was most necessary, as there were many valuable records, flags, arms, etc., stored away, which were of the greatest possible historical interest. Such a club or institute would be modelled somewhat after that of The Royal United Service Institution in England, and there would be a resident and non-resident scale of subscription. The General also laid great stress on the absolute necessity of the Government and military officers taking hold of such projects, as they would give a great and necessary impetus to the military affairs of this young country.

The importance of military institutes was mentioned, and the advantage pointed out of having officers meet to discuss freely and frankly their different troubles, ideas and suggestions. The General looked upon such institutes as the greatest possible assistance to the military authorities. Papers, essays and lectures, could be delivered, followed by discussion, in which officers of all ranks could take part. The Officers' Association could be the means of bringing officers of all ranks together from all over Canada.

The Council of the association had discussed the subject, and, with a view to meet the expressed wishes of the United Service Club, he submitted a report from Council, the adoption of which he moved.