

in this country. I know my predecessor, Lord Lorne, who was a very earnest supporter of the association, and a strong believer in its usefulness, made a strong effort to induce the banks and manufacturers to come forward and do what they could to encourage the association, and it met with some success at the time. The banks are, I am glad to say, steady and consistent supporters, but the manufacturers, who, if anybody, have an interest in seeing that the country is provided with an efficient army, appear to be insufficiently alive to the duty which attaches to them. Indeed, as far as I have been able to ascertain, only two donations have been received during the past year from manufacturers—a very handsome one from the Hamilton Powder Company, of Montreal, which no doubt has a fellow feeling for our association, and one from another company, described as a cotton company—I do not know whether the cotton in question is gun cotton or not—at Cornwall.

In regard to one other matter I may certainly offer the society my hearty congratulations, and that is upon the performance of its members at Wimbledon in 1885. We did not, it is true, succeed in carrying off the Kolapore cups, but our volunteers took five places in the second and three in the third stage of the Queen's—a result never before attained by a Canadian team.

I have now only to wish the association a continuation of the prosperity which has attended it during the past year. It has won for itself an honorable position as an outwork of the military service. No better illustration of the importance of the place which it fills in the estimation of the highest military authorities could be given than the fact that Sir Frederick Middleton had devoted a considerable portion of his report to an examination of its position. Of his observations we may say that if they are critical they are essentially friendly, and that we welcome criticism from one so well qualified to criticise. No one is better aware than he is of the difficulties which a force situated as in the volunteer force of the Dominion has to encounter in endeavoring to approximate to the standard efficiency and discipline required from a regular army. No one knows better than he does how anxious our volunteers are within the limits of possibility to raise that standard and to co-operate loyally with those who, like himself, have the interests of the force so closely at heart.

Major Mason, in moving a vote of thanks to the government for their liberal grant to the association, raised the question of encouraging Martini-Henry practice, and thought there should be more matches with this rifle on the programme. He did not desire to see the association turned into a Martini-Henry association, but the fact that out of the funds \$4,000 were spent in sending a team to Wimbledon, should be sufficient to induce the council to pay more attention to the use of this weapon.

Major Blaiklock, who seconded the resolution, dwelt on the disadvantages our team had to overcome in meeting men who had constant practice with the Martini.

On motion of Major Smartt, seconded by Major Dawson, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Sir Adolphe Caron, for his prize of a handsome cup.

Col. Panet explained the absence of the Minister of Militia. He was anxious to be present, but at the last moment had found it utterly impossible to leave his official duties.

Col. Tyrwhitt moved the thanks of the association to Sir Frederick Middleton for his donation of \$50, and though he said it with the fear of the Queen's regulations before his eyes, took occasion to say that the general's conduct during the campaign had endeared him to the whole force. He spoke of his bravery and the effect it had on green troops. He heard but one complaint during the whole campaign; and that was because the general would not ignore the whole system of tactics and place the entire field in the fighting line.

General Middleton, in reply, said he would relieve Col. Tyrwhitt from his dilemma by taking his remarks as having fallen from Mr. Tyrwhitt, and felt proud of these expressions of confidence in him. He did his best to deserve them, and whatever he did was well backed up by the troops behind him. This was his first trial of serving with volunteer troops, and he wished it put on record that if he had the same thing to undertake to-morrow he would prefer them to any soldiers in the world. They were all of a superior class to troops in the regular army. Though he knew they were green and untrained, he felt he was safe with them. He was certain that not one of them could afford to run away. If he did he might as well cut his throat. Even his girl would shun him should he do so. All he wanted with them was plenty of time for organization and for drill, and these he had got.

Respecting the work of the association, a feeling was arising that too much attention was being paid to long range shooting, and he, being principally concerned in the benefit of the force, thought more attention should be given to shooting at shorter ranges. He then quoted from a lecture by Col. Graham, at the United Service Institute, in which group firing at short ranges was strongly advocated. He also desired that the force should be armed with Martinis, and would strongly recommend it whenever he had an opportunity; for, although some of those with him had got choked by the failure of the extractor, he understood that difficulty had been remedied. He was not prepared to endorse a magazine rifle.

Col. Oswald, addressing himself to Lord Lansdowne, moved, seconded by Col. Graveley, the re-election of Lieut.-Col. Hon. G. Kirkpatrick as president of the association, and alluded to his efficiency and the interest he had taken in the work of the association.

His Excellency put the resolution, which was carried amid applause.

The President thanked the association for the honor it had done him, and promised to do all he could to promote its welfare. He would take the opportunity of bringing the question of Martini-Henry rifle shooting before the council. He thanked His Excellency the Governor-General for coming down to present the prizes at the last meeting, and in this connection animadverted strongly on the disgraceful way in which some of the prize winners were uniformed when coming up to receive their rewards.

The vice-presidents for the several provinces were reelected as follows:—Ontario, Lieut.-Col. Allan Gilmour, Ottawa; Quebec, Hon. Robert Hamilton, Quebec; New Brunswick, Lieut.-Col. Hon. A. E. Botsford, Sackville; Nova Scotia, Lieut.-Col. A. K. Mackinlay, Halifax; Manitoba, Hon. A. Girard, Winnipeg; British Columbia, Hon. W. J. Macdonald, Victoria; P. E. I., Lieut.-Col. Hon. T. H. Haythorne, Charlottetown.

The election of members of Council resulted as follows:—

Ontario—Lieut.-Col. White, 43rd; Lieut.-Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Lieut.-Col. J. Vance Graveley, 40th Battalion; Lieut.-Col. Gibson, M.P.P., 13th Battalion; Geo. Casey, Esq., M.P.; Lieut.-Col. Jones, 38th Battalion; Capt. Toller, G.G.F.G.

Quebec—Lieut.-Col. Ouimet, M. P., 65th; Lieut.-Col. McEachern, C.M.G., 50th; Major E. Bond, 1st P. W. R.; R. N. Hall, Esq., M.P., Capt. Prévost, 65th.

New Brunswick—Lieut.-Col. Beer, 74th; Major Tilton, G.G.F.G.; E. D. Sutherland, Esq.

Nova Scotia—Lieut.-Col. Murray, Capt. Weston, 66th Batt.; Capt. Garrison, Halifax Gar. Art.

Manitoba—Hon. Joseph Royal, M.P.; Mr. Watson, M.P.

British Columbia—Lieut.-Col. Ross, G.G.F.G.; Lieut. Gray, G.G.F.G.

P. E. I.—Surgeon General Bergin, M.P.; Capt. Gourdeau, P.L.D.G.

These are in addition to an equal number appointed by the several provincial associations at their regular meetings.

An amendment to the constitution enabling the executive committee to fill any vacancies that might occur during the year from amongst the remaining members of the council was passed.

This concluding the regular business, discussion on general matters of interest was invited.

Lt.-Col. Scoble said that in view of certain remarks made by the major-general he wished to have it placed upon record that the D.R.A. was not supposed to be a military organization, its object being merely to bring together the military and civilian shooting interests, and he should object to its drifting into such an organization, especially as a large number of the affiliating associations were not military.

Lt.-Col. O'Brien wished to draw attention to the fact that the bulk of the prizes offered by the association were won by officers and non-combatants, such as staff-sergeants, instead of by the men who carried the rifles and in case of trouble were supposed to do the firing. He suggested the establishment of certain matches restricted to combatant n.c.o's. and men. He said that the officers, on account of the leisure time they had, were enabled to put in extensive practice and thus had an advantage over the men.

Major Mason pointed out that the report shows that a large proportion of the prizes last year were won by the men, and only one first prize was won by an officer. His experience was that the men wanted the officers to take part in the competitions.

Lt.-Col. White upheld the views expressed by Major Mason. He thought in this respect as in others the men should only be asked to follow where the officers led.

A good deal of discussion followed, in which Capt. Perley, Mr. Casey and Col. Jackson took part, most of the speakers favoring the practice of the officers shooting with the men. Major Blaiklock pointed out that the best shooting battalions were those with most shooting officers.

The chairman made some remarks respecting the discussion. Referring first to the suggestion of government control of the association, he condemned the idea, holding that the association, which at present got a great deal of support from outside, as an independent body, would lose this if made a branch of the government, and would then have to be maintained solely by the militia department. With regard to officers competing in matches, he said it was well known that shooting officers made shooting men in a battalion.

The matter of supplying the volunteers with Martini-Henry or other rifles than the Snider was brought up by Mr. Casey. The Manitoba Association had called the attention of the D.R.A. to this matter, and asked for a resolution setting before the government that the Canadian volunteers should be as well armed as the British troops.