

ham. He thought it probable that the office he now held would shortly be held by some other gentleman, and he believed by a "son of Erin." However, in the future, whether he was the President of the Association or not, he should always take a lively interest in its prosperity and would be always on hand to render any assistance in his power (Applause.)

The company then separated.

THE ALL CORNERS MATCH.

The competition in the "All Corners Match" which was commenced shortly after noon. The ranges were 200, 500 and 600 yards, five shots at each range. There were 346 entries, which is 43 entries more than in the same match last year. The weather was beautifully fine and clear, but a very strong and gusty wind blew across the ranges from the northwest throughout the day, making good shooting extremely difficult. The marking was performed by a detachment from the A Battery of the Dominion Artillery, but at the commencement of the match the work was performed in a most unsatisfactory manner. Several hits which were made at the 200 yards range, and evident to all present, were omitted to be signalled. The unfortunate competitor, however, had no redress, having to lose his shot and proceed with the competition, and no officer of the Association was on the ground to whom an appeal could be made, all of them apparently being more interested in what was taking place in the President's marquee than in attending to their duties. An unnecessary delay of over an hour was also occasioned from this cause in commencing the firing at 500 yards, the register keepers refusing to allow the competitors to proceed until they received orders from the range officers. The firing at the "all corners" match was continued until six o'clock, when the gun fired to cease. The match was therefore not concluded, and we are unable to give the list of prize winners this morning. Mr. McNaughton, of Cobourg, at present stands first with a score of 46 points, the score with which the first prize was won last year. Privates Hughes and Mills, of the 10th Royals, are next with 46 points each. The lowest score which took a prize last year was 42. The match will be concluded this morning. The Affiliated Associations Match, for which there were about 300 entries, will commence this morning at nine o'clock.

Whilst the firing was going on at the Enfield pool target in the afternoon, an accident occurred to the marker, whose name was Harding. Just as the mark was coming out of the butt, with the danger flag up to repoint the target, Mr. James Murray, of Hamilton, fired and the splinters from the bullet striking the target severely cut Harding's hand and arm in several places, and took a piece off the tip of one of his fingers. The wounds were dressed by Surgeon De la Hook. Murray was afterwards debarred from further competition during the matches for firing whilst the danger flag was up.

The adjourned meeting of the Association will be held in the Council tent to day.

[To be concluded in our next.]

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE.

The fancy which the authorities at the Admiralty and War Office have frequently indulged in, in treating as "confidential" various minor standing orders, circulars, and memoranda concerning war material, has, on more than one occasion, been noticed in these columns, as by this course the knowledge therein contained has only been accessible to officers on active service, and

those unfortunately unemployed have been allowed to become sadly ignorant of the changes constantly taking place in arms and ammunition. Had we felt that this system of secrecy was adopted so as to keep from rival powers the advantages of any improvements which we had projected, after much labour and expense, there would have been little cause for complaint, as the gain in time of war might have fully made up for the ignorance in which our half-pay Officers had been kept, though they would necessarily have been somewhat inefficient when called upon to take part in the struggle. But great as the desire of the departments appears to have been to keep our own Officers in the dark with regard to the weapons they would be called upon to use in warfare, no effort has been made to prevent foreign Governments from acquiring full details of the manufacture of war material which might some day be brought in the field against them; in fact, the action of the authorities in this matter would appear to be without a parallel. The appointment at Portsmouth of a "secret committee" on torpedoes, which has sat with closed doors, and has only ventured to make one experiment at the deadly hour of midnight, when there would be few idlers ready to make notes of the proceedings, would naturally lead to the supposition that in this matter at least we should keep our own counsel, and not give our neighbours the full benefit of all details of information which we possess concerning these explosive engines. But we have done otherwise, and the American Government, if no other, has duly appreciated our ingenuousness, and has reprinted at the Government printing office at Washington, the confidential notes on torpedoes, by Major Stotherd, R.E., extracts from the report of the confidential Committee on Explosions, and the confidential course of electricity taught on board the Excellent, the whole of which matter has been jealously guarded from falling into the hands of British Officers, unless on active service, while it has been freely placed at the disposal of other Governments, and is now in the hands of foreign Officers. As with torpedoes, so with guns; and, while obstacles are raised to prevent those in the English Service having free access to Royal Armaments, we have gone so far as to present, a foreign official with a complete set of drawings of our most perfect gun carriage, &c. And now when we turn to our latest efforts in naval construction, we find that much the same course has been followed as with the other departments. In a recent order issued by the Admiralty relative to the admission of foreigners into our dockyards, great care was taken to prevent the homeless order of foreign visitors—persons of no distinction—from seeing too much, and a police constable was never to leave the side of such visitors during their stay within the walls of the yard; but foreign officials of note were to be allowed access to the mould lofts and pattern rooms at the discretion of the Superintendent, and were to be accompanied by a Naval Officer, or dockyard official, to act as guide, and doubtless, to give the distinguished visitors such information as they might require. This display of civility to officials from other countries, may have been deemed expedient for our own sakes perhaps; for since a sort of travelling naval agent has been introduced by the Admiralty to supersede the naval attaché of former times, we are dependent upon the information to be picked up by flying visits to foreign yards, and, therefore, so that we may reap, without having much regard to the question whether that which we gather

from other sources will be equally as valuable as that which we disseminate. The over-wise reticence of Mr. Goschen, when dropping a few crumbs of information as to the new ship Inflexible, may have been occasioned through his distrust of the British Parliament and public, or through a feeling that the less he said about matters he failed to understand the better for his reputation; but it cannot have been occasioned through any desire to keep the design a secret from foreign Powers, for they were put in possession of all the details, and a vast amount of other valuable information connected with our Navy, months before the First Lord of the Admiralty treated this country to a whisper on a subject so important to its welfare. Mr. Reed, in coming forward to throw a little more light upon the design of the Inflexible—for which, it appears, he should be credited—expresses his surprise at Mr. Goschen's reluctance to give the details to Parliament, for, as the late Chief Constructor remarks, "It is, curiously enough, to that gentleman himself, and to his colleagues in the Government, that the widespread publication of the plan was due. This publication was brought about by the printing and circulation of the Report (with the evidence) of the Admiralty Committee on Designs. We are not surprised to find that Mr. Reed was much astonished at the publication of the vast mass of information concerning Her Majesty's ships—past, present, and future—which this volume embodied, and was still more astonished to find it in the hands of foreign Admiralties long before the British public were permitted to have access to it. For the Government itself to bring together all the information that can be well accumulated about Her Majesty's ships, illustrated with drawings and tabular statements, and then to despatch it, in sanction it to despatch, to foreign Governments, has a most extraordinary appearance. Yet this was done in the case of the Committee on Designs and its Report, and," says Mr. Reed, "it is to this cause that we owe the enormous strides in ironclad construction which one or two foreign Governments have recently taken." Surely, so systematic a misapplication of the "confidential" was never before perceived in; for, while we keep valuable information from those who serve the country, and thus detract from their efficiency, we lavish the same upon those who may have it in their power to turn the knowledge thus freely given to our disadvantage, if not to our destruction. Can folly further go?

The above article shows in a striking light the folly of official secrecy, as practised in England, and the necessity for making their own people acquainted in the first instance, with every circumstance which is imparted to foreigners.—Ed. Vol. Rev.

CHANGE OF PROPRIETORSHIP.—The proprietorship of the *Expositor*—a Conservative journal, published in Perth, county of Lanark—passed last week into the hands of the Law Firm of BARRFORD & ELLIOT, Esqrs., barristers, etc., of that town. The former proprietor, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Scott, will in future make Manitoba his home. We feel assured that the reputation of the *Expositor* will be enhanced in the hands of the new proprietors; that fresh vigour—and more of it—will be infused into its columns, and that it will, before many months have elapsed, rank amongst the best conducted of our country exchanges.