

# THE RIFLE LEAGUE.

## WIND UP OF THE SECOND SEASON'S OPERATIONS

List of the Honour Men—New Schemes Suggested in the Secretary's Report—Congratulations from High Places And Promise of Continued Assistance—The Business Meeting.

The second season of the Canadian Military Rifle League was brought to a highly successful conclusion on Monday, the 31st August, when the presentation of prizes took place with appropriate ceremony. The scene was the Rideau Skating Rink at Ottawa, where there was a large attendance of riflemen, though the general public were conspicuous by their absence. The President of the League, Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson, presided, and other distinguished persons on the platform were the Hon. Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia; Lt. Col. the Hon. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P.; Lt.-Col. F. C. Denison, M.P.; Major-General Herbert, Commanding the Militia; Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General; Col. C. E. Panet, Deputy Minister; Major-General Laurie, Lt.-Col. Anderson, Vice-President; Capt. Bruce, Treasurer; Lieut. W. R. Pringle, Secretary; and Mr. A. D. Crooks, Assistant Secretary of the League. The trophies to be presented were conspicuously displayed and formed a very attractive collection.

The President opened the proceedings with an interesting address. He referred with pride to the fact that the territory of the League is as broad as the Dominion itself, its operations extending through every province, and accorded the credit of the success achieved to the indefatigable Secretary (applause), who, from its inception had been the main spirit of the League and proved himself a live executive officer. The great object of the League had been to encourage simultaneous matches as one effective means of promoting shooting throughout the Dominion. In putting the teams into the field it had not been sought to arrive at a comparison with any degree of accuracy, the wide difference in ranges and weather conditions making it futile to take the scoring as at all an indication of the relative merits of the teams competing. Nevertheless, it was very interesting to have all these teams shooting at the same time and comparing notes with one another. Interest in rifle practice had thereby been fostered, and a spirit of emulation had been stirred up which would not otherwise have prevailed.

One source of great advantage had been the interest taken by the Minister of Militia (applause), who had been indeed a good friend of the League. It was unfortunately true that riflemen found shooting a very expensive business, not only losing their half day every time a practice was desired, but having also to provide their ammunition. But in this instance the Minister of Militia had rendered most material aid by providing ammunition for them. He thought that no expenditure on the part of the Government could be more justifiable, and considered it a matter for rejoicing that in this particular matter there was unanimous approval (laughter) of the course taken by the Minister, and the interest he had himself shown in the League. The fact that Sir Adolphe and the military authorities at headquarters were present this evening showed that they felt an active interest in the operations of the riflemen, which he hoped would be maintained and developed.

### THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary, Lieut. W. R. Pringle, was then called upon to present his annual report, which he read as follows:

*To the President and Members of the Canadian Military Rifle League:*

GENTLEMEN, — In presenting my second annual report as Secretary of the League, it affords me much pleasure to state that the success attending its operations has been even more pronounced than in the inaugural season. Then we had an entry list of 52 teams, and this year the figure was exactly doubled, there being 104 teams, of 15 men each, making the immense total of 1560 men engaged on the range at each of the five competitions. As the composition of the teams varied, the actual number of men taking part in one or more of the competitions was much larger, reaching the grand total of 1550, all of whom were thus directly interested in rifle shooting, and participated in the grant of free ammunition. This large increase is in the main due to the liberality of the Government in acceding to the kind recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Militia that the ammunition should be again issued free to those participating in the League competitions. The League are further indebted to Sir Adolphe Caron for his gift of a handsome silver trophy, which is to be competed for at this year's meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa, and promises to be keenly contested for, the entries numbering nearly three hundred. An entry fee of fifty cents per man has been fixed, and the money thus received will be applied towards a series of prizes to go as a solatium to those who compete for the trophy and are not so happy as to win first prize.

Another generous friend has been our President, Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson, who has presented a handsome trophy, for team competition at the D.R.A. meeting, and extra entries have been made by several corps with the special object of strengthening their team for this match.

A total amount of \$848 was paid in by the competing teams towards furnishing a prize fund and meeting the running expenses. The latter have been kept down as much as possible, amounting to only about \$150. The rest of the money subscribed has been invested in thirty-two cups, besides the badges, there being one of the latter for the highest man on each team. It had been suggested to make the teams consist of twenty men each for this season, but later it being thought advisable to leave the figure at ten as formerly it was determined to encourage the entry of additional teams from each corps by offering extra prizes for 20, 30 and 40 men teams respectively. And to meet the case of corps not in a position to enter even 10 men, prizes were offered for association teams, to be composed of members from different corps or part military and part civilian as the case might be. This had the effect of bringing in several additional entries, especially from the North-West, and notably from the Headquarter staff at Ottawa, whose participation was a source of much encouragement to competitors elsewhere, showing the practical interest taken in the League by those in authority. The Headquarters team had a distinguished personnel, including Major-General Herbert, Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Lt.-Col. White, Chairman of the D.R.A. Executive; Lt.-Col. John Macpherson, Treasurer of the D.R.A.; Lt.-Col. Bacon, Secretary of the D.R.A.; Lt.-Col. J. P. Macpherson, A.D.C. to the Governor General; Lt.-Col. D. A. Macdonald, Capt. Stratfield, A.D.C. to the Major-General Commanding; Major John Walsh, Chief Statistical Officer of the D.R.A.; Lieut. White, and other officers of the Militia Department.

The League seems fairly to be entitled to credit for increasing the D.R.A. entries last year and this, many organizations participating in the League matches having for the first time made D.R.A. team entries.