

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proceedings of an Annual General Meeting held in Room No. 50, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, on Thursday, 15th March, 1888.

PRESENT :—His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, Governor General, accompanied by Captain Streatfeild Military Secretary and Captain Anson, A. D. C. ; Lieut.-Colonel Oswald, President of the Association ; Major General Laurie, M. P. ; Colonel Panet, Deputy Minister ; Colonel Powell, A. G. ; Lt.-Col. Irwin, I. of A. ; Lt.-Col. Macdonald ; Lt.-Col. Kirkpatrick, M. P. ; Lt.-Col. O'Brien, M. P. ; Lt.-Col. McKenzie ; Lt.-Col. Otter, Lt.-Col. Macpherson, D. of S. ; Lt.-Col. Gravely, Lt.-Col. Walker, Major Stewart, Major Mason, Major Prior, M. P. ; Major Adams, Major Wilson, Mr. Marler, Major Blaiklock, Captain Donaldson, Capt. Bliss, Capt. Wicksteed, Lieut. Irving, Lieut. Bliss, etc.

1. It was proposed by Lt.-Col. McKenzie, seconded by Major Stewart—"That the Annual Report for 1887, as printed and distributed be received and accepted as read." Carried.

2. Moved by Lt.-Colonel Oswald seconded by Lt.-Col. Macdonald—"That the Report be adopted and the accounts as audited be passed." Carried.

3. Proposed by Lt.-Col. Irwin, seconded by Lt.-Col. Oswald—"That the thanks of the Association be tendered to His Excellency the Governor General for the continued interest which he has taken in the Association and the prizes which he has donated, and also for his farewell gift of *seventy five* dollars to the prize fund." Carried.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

His Excellency on rising was enthusiastically cheered. After quiet had been restored he said : I thank you cordially for the vote of thanks which you have just been good enough to pass, and for the manner in which you have been pleased to refer to my connection with the Dominion Artillery Association. I shall carry away nothing but agreeable recollections of my experiences as patron of the association. If I have endeavoured by my presence upon this or upon other occasions, or by those contributions to your prize list of which you have so generously spoken, to show the interest which I have felt in the work which the Association is carrying on, it is because of my deep conviction that that work is one of the utmost importance to the country. I am glad to observe that the report of the Council is able to speak encouragingly of the manner in which the association is being supported by field and garrison batteries throughout the Dominion. I am also glad to notice that it is in your contemplation to send a detachment this year to Shoeburyness. If I am in the old country at the time I may possibly have a last opportunity of meeting Canadian artillerymen before my departure for my new post. I trust that the suggestions made by the Council in favour of the formation of provincial associations will be taken to heart in the different provinces. The immense extent of the Dominion makes it impossible for one organization such as yours to cover the whole ground adequately, and I have no doubt that the province is the proper unit of organization for this purpose, and that the formation of provincial associations in connection with yours will be for their interests as well as those of the central association. I am tempted before I resume my place to refer to a matter which is, I think, of great importance to the artillerymen of Canada. I mean the recent appointment by your Government of a Central Defence Committee, to which a great body of important questions concerning the safety of the Dominion is to be referred. The object with which that committee has been appointed is, as I understand it, not to involve the taxpayers of Canada in the expense which would be undoubtedly entailed upon them by an ambitious scheme of national defences or fortifications,