

would be executed within four and a half years. He did not think the proposed increase would induce other nations to attempt to rival England in naval strength, because England had refrained from military rivalry. He did not believe that any other power was capable of executing such an extensive programme in so short a time. Lord Charles Beresford gave notice of an amendment declaring that England's naval strength ought to be equal to the navies of France and any other great power combined.

The Ontario Artillery Association.

The fourth annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association was held at the Rossin House, Toronto, on the 5th February, 1889. The detailed report we had arranged for missed connection, but even at this late day the following official report of the proceedings will be read with interest:

The meeting was opened at 11.15 a. m., the Senior Vice-President, Major F. King, Welland Canal F. B., in the chair, in the absence of Lt.-Col. Peters, President. Present: Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson, M.P.P.; Col. C. S. Czowski, A.D.C. to the Queen; Lt.-Col. W. D. Otter, D.A.G.; Lt.-Cols. A. H. Macdonald, 1st B.F.A., W. McKenzie, Gananoque F. B., and H. E. Irving, Retired List; Majors W. Nicoll, 1st B.F.A., W. McLean, Durham F. B., H. P. Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B., G. B. Hood, 1st B. F. A., and J. H. Mead, Toronto F. B.; Veterinary Surgeon A. Smith, Toronto F. B.; Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Hamilton F. B., J. Davidson, 1st B. F. A., W. A. Higginbotham, 1st B. F. A., and David McCrae, late 1st Brigade F. A.; Lieuts. W. A. Knowles, H. D. Merewether, J. A. Ross, Thos. McCrae, 1st B. F. A.; Messrs. R. B. Williamson, Port Hope, R. Myles, Toronto, F. J. Dixon, Montreal, and L. H. Irving, Secretary. The notice calling the meeting was read by the chairman. The minutes of the last general meeting having been read, it was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Major Van Wagner, "That the name of Major Mead be added to the names of those comprising the Executive Committee." Carried. Which having been done it was moved by Col. McKenzie, seconded by Major Nicoll, "That the minutes so altered be confirmed." Carried. The minutes were then signed by the chairman.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the Chairman Executive Committee Ontario Artillery Association:

SIR,—In accordance with rule No. 23, I have the honour to submit for the consideration of the committee, the third annual report on the working of the association.

The target practice of the Ontario Field Batteries was carried out by seven batteries during the twelve days allowed for annual drill, and by three others some three months after they had completed their training. This placed in the hands of these batteries an advantage not possessed by the others. The advantage being that three batteries had an opportunity, if they so desired, of training their selected marksmen during this time in nothing but laying. They further enjoyed additional advantages in having a land range, and the use of telephones.

I wish to lay great emphasis upon the importance of obtaining the maximum benefit from the firing practice. A return of the scores made during the past three years has been prepared, or reference to which you will notice that the decimal obtained during 1886 by the Ontario Batteries is the highest, being .54. That year half of the batteries fired at Port Hope, and half at Port Colborne, with service sights, but not during annual drill. The following year, with Scott's patent sights and during annual drill, the decimal drops to .48. During the past year a new system of scoring having been introduced, and the parallelogram of error being enlarged, it was expected that the scores would be larger, but on the contrary, the practice again being held during annual drill, the decimal has shrunk down to .43. I have also prepared a diagram showing the variations in the firing during five years.

No one can doubt that the average capacity of the men to learn how to lay a gun properly is the same in all batteries. Such being the case, the different results obtained in different batteries must be due to want of preliminary training in laying. With this in view, an instructional target has been made, and I beg to most strongly recommend that the association press the Militia Department to supply two to each battery on the understanding that they are to be used and not hidden away.

The Cobourg Garrison Battery, the only effective garrison battery in the province, carried out its gun practice at the Isle of Orleans. Until there is some increase in this branch of the arm, the association can do little to encourage it.

The individual membership has not increased this year as it should have done. Until some enthusiastic officer at each battery headquarters undertakes the unpleasant but still necessary job of getting new mem-

bers and collecting subscriptions, the work of the association will be hampered for want of funds and friends.

I have to thank Col. Walker Powell, the Adjutant-General, for forwarding a copy of the *Official Gazette*.

A list showing the winners of prizes given by the association is enclosed.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING, *Secretary*.

The secretary's report having been read, Col. Macdonald enquired why no prizes had been given for "aggregate scores," "general efficiency," etc. The secretary read the minutes of

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

of the 2nd January, 1889, bearing upon the subject. At this meeting there were present: Major Mead, in the chair, Major McLean, Captain Hendrie, Captain Davidson, Mr. Irving, and Mr. Malloch. After other business, as detailed in the minutes, the Secretary read a letter received by him on the 2nd November last, in which Major Van Wagner protested against the scores of the batteries which fired at Toronto being allowed to count towards the marks in the competition for general efficiency, "on the ground that the regulations as laid down by the Inspector of Artillery had not been complied with; also, a further letter from the same officer alleging that the representative of the O.A.A. on the executive committee of the D.A.A., had not been consulted in regard to the protest made by him to the D.A.A., and requesting that the necessary information on this point be obtained from the D.A.A., together with any reports made by certain officers at the recent target practices held in Ontario. The answer from the Secretary of the D.A.A. transmitting the report of the range officer at Niagara, was to the effect that the Ontario representative had not, for the reasons therein stated, been asked to give an opinion.

"A letter from Major F. King was read protesting against the London Field Battery and the First Brigade Field Artillery participating in any firing prizes offered by the association, for the reason that the regulations, as officially published, had not been observed by these corps. Majors King and Van Wagner were present and stated their reasons in support of their protests. Captains Hendrie and Davidson having retired, 'It was moved by Major McLean, seconded by Mr. Malloch, that the prizes offered in the list of 30th March, 1888, to the most efficient field batteries,' 'to the officer making the highest score,' 'to the field batteries making the three highest aggregate scores' and 'to the two highest individual scores' be cancelled, and that the protests of the Hamilton and Welland Canal Field Batteries are hereby sustained.' Carried.

"It was moved by Captain Davidson, seconded by Mr. Irving, 'That the prize list of 30th March last, be further altered by offering to the n. c. o. and gunner of any field battery obtaining the highest decimal at their short course examination at the Royal School of Artillery at Kingston, prizes of \$7 and \$5 respectively.' Carried."

THE TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The financial statement of the Treasurer, showing a cash balance of \$484 54, having been submitted, it was moved by Major McLean, seconded by Major Van Wagner, That the Treasurer's report be adopted. Carried. The statement gives the following synopsis of receipts and expenditure from 4th Feb., 1888, to 4th Feb., 1889:—

To Balance from 1887.....	\$256 81
Government and municipal grants.....	550 00
Affiliation fees.....	116 00
Members' subscriptions.....	155 00
Sale of cards.....	2 00
Interest.....	18 17
	\$1,097 98
By Affiliation with Dominion Association.....	158 50
Prize list, 1887.....	49 50
" 1888.....	255 00
Printing report, etc.....	51 00
Cyclostyle.....	15 00
<i>Canadian Militia Gazette</i>	9 40
Sundries.....	24 41
Allowance to Secretary.....	50 00
Bank charges.....	63
Balance.....	484 54
	\$1,097 98

THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

having been read, it was moved by Major Mead, seconded by Capt. Hendrie, "That the report of the Executive Committee be adopted." In amendment thereto it was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Mr. Knowles, "That the clause commencing 'This Committee regrets' be omitted." The amendment, having been put, was carried on the following division: Yeas—Lt.-Col. Macdonald, Lt.-Col. McKenzie, Major Nicoll, Major Hood, Capt. Higginbotham, Messrs. Knowles, Merewether and Ross—8. Nays—Major Van Wagner, Major McLean,