

ness has issued the following circular letter to each member of the Executive:—

TORONTO, March 22nd, 1892.

Dear Sir,—It will be remembered that at the annual meeting of the Canadian Rifle League the appointment of a Secretary was left to the Executive Committee. Efforts have been used by me since the meeting to induce Mr Pringle to act for at least one more year, and I have had some reason to hope these efforts would be successful. Recently, however, for purely business reasons, he has positively declined, and another man must be selected. There are many riflemen who would fill the bill very well, but I desire that the duties shall be undertaken by some one who can see me or be consulted by me without any inconvenience, and the name of Major Delamere is suggested by me for the position for this year. He will not be available for re-election at the next annual meeting. As a member of the Executive Committee do you concur in Major Delamere's appointment?

In sending me your reply please let me also have your views on one or two points of vital importance to the League:—

1st. What do you suggest with a view to a more satisfactory system of checking and verifying the scores? I intend to send out a very strong letter on the subject to the C.O.'s of all competing corps before the first competition takes place; but if I receive from each of the members of the Committee his well considered views on this difficult question I may be able, with the Secretary's assistance, to adopt some sort of a system that will at least be an improvement on the past.

2nd. Do you think any higher entrance fee can be imposed without danger of a falling off in entries?

3rd. Do you think it necessary to provide so large a number of prizes in the shape of cups? The badges have been recognized by the Militia Department, and of course will be appreciated all the more from that fact, but perhaps there is not any necessity for the tremendous array of cups which we have hitherto presented.

4th. What, if any, suggestions have you to make for improving the programme of last year?

Please let me hear from you as soon as possible, so that at the termination of the session of the Legislature I may be in a position to have all necessary arrangements made and announcements published.

I am, yours very truly,

J. M. GIBSON,  
President.

It is to be hoped that Col. Gibson's request for early replies will be granted, as it is important that the League programme should be announced soon, in order that rifle associations generally may shape their plans accordingly.

## DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association was held on Wednesday, the 16th inst., with the usual average attendance, although some familiar faces were missed; among whom was the late Capt. Macnachten of Cobourg, who for many years was a very regular attendant.

Lt.-Col. Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick occupied the chair, and on his right was His Excellency the Governor-General, attended by Viscount Kilcourse, A.D.C.

The annual report having been received as printed, accepted as read, and adopted, Major Hughes, 45th Battalion, moved the usual vote of thanks to His Excellency for his presence and continued patronage of the Association.

His Excellency in replying remarked that on glancing at the cover of the report the thought occurred to him that the title might be aptly changed from Dominion Rifle Association to Dominion Smooth-bore Association. It was a source of regret that year after year passed without any improvement in the arm with which the force is equipped.

Lt.-Col. Massey moved the vote of thanks to the Minister of Militia, whose presence at the meeting afforded much pleasure to the members present, and might, he trusted, be accepted as an augury of good omen for the force, as evidencing the interest which the Minister intended to take in everything connected with his Department.

Lt.-Col. the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell responded in a most felicitous strain, and recalled, amidst considerable amusement, the first occasion on which he had met the Hon. President of the Association; on which occasion, acting as A. D. C. to the D. A. G. at one of the Brigade Camps, he had been detailed to convey an order to the President, then commanding his regiment. Upon delivering the order he was asked to repeat it, and having done so, was asked if he could tell how to do it, to which he was forced to reply, "Lord no; it was hard enough to remember how to deliver it."

He assured the members that whatever it was in his power to do to improve the position of the force, having due regard to the limited means placed at his disposal, would be done, and he would always endeavour to secure the co-operation and approval of the other members of the Cabinet in any scheme to improve the force.

The thanks of the Association having been tendered to the Major General commanding, Major General Herbert on rising expressed his thanks to the members of the Association for the kind manner in which the mention of his name had been received. He assured them that everything he had been able to do had been not only a duty but a pleasure, and that the more he goes on and sees the deep

interest taken in their work by all ranks, the very satisfactory progress made, and the good results attained considering the limited opportunities afforded them, the greater pleasure it afforded him to work for and with the Militia of Canada. It was the same way with the rifle shooting, and this made him all the more anxious that a weapon might be put in their hands more efficient than that with which they are at present armed.

Last year was a red letter year for the riflemen of the Dominion, not only at Bisley but at the D.R.A. also, for which he thought we owe a great deal to the Military Rifle League, and he was pleased to announce that he had just given authority for the winners of badges in the League to wear them when in uniform in a similar manner to the badges won at Bisley or at the Dominion Rifle Association meeting.

He had read with great interest the report of Major Weston, commandant of the Bisley Team, whose recommendations were practical and of considerable value. With reference to the suggestion that the Association endeavour to obtain permission for the team to practice on the Pirbright range, he feared there would be difficulties in the way which would be hard to overcome, as the whole brigade of Guards had to do their firing on this range, and it was usually fully occupied; but if the Council determined that it would be desirable to endeavour to obtain permission to use it, he would communicate with the military authorities if the Executive would wish him to do so, and do his best to secure the needful permission.

Lt.-Col. Turnbull, M.G.A., moved, seconded by Lieut. Laurie, I.S.C., the thanks of the Association to the several donors of prizes to the Association.

Major Blaiklock moved a hearty vote of thanks to Lt.-Col. Roberts for his continued kindness to the Bisley Team of 1891. Major Blaiklock stated that on the arrival of the team at Cambridge they found that no arrangements *whatsoever* had been made for their board or lodging, and they were indebted to Col. Roberts for most unremitting kindness and attention in endeavouring to secure suitable quarters for them, as well as in granting them the use of the Cambridge University rifle range for practice during the week preceding the Bisley meeting.

Lieut. Sutherland moved that inasmuch as the National Rifle Association authorities have determined to open their matches under certain restrictions to retired volunteers, and it is usual for our D. R. A. to follow in the footsteps of the parent institution, that provision be made by the Council in this year's programme for the admission of retired volunteers to all matches under certain restrictions to be imposed by Council. Major Blaiklock moved in amendment that Mr. Sutherland's motion be received as notice of motion for next annual meeting, in order that a full discussion of the matter might