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THE DOMINION RIFLE CUP.

The Ontario Riflemen who went to England last summer to compete at the annual Wimbledon meeting acquitted themselves in a manner which attracted very general and favourable notice from all who take an interest in Rifle matches. But their crowning success was the winning by Capt. McLennaghan of the Cup presented by Sir Peter Tait. We give on this page an illustration of the Cup and copy the following description of it from the *London Review*:

"Sir Peter Tait, M.P., has forwarded to the Hon. Sir G. E. Cartier, Bart., Minister of Militia and Defence, a magnificent silver vase as a prize for rifle competition. It is in shape something like the celebrated Warwick Vase, and stands on a pedestal of polished ebony mounted with silver. The plinth of the pedestal is square; the column having the corners cut off is octagonal, presenting four large and four small faces; the foot of the vase is circular, and the handles, which are highly chased, spring from rams' heads. Wreaths of roses, thistles, shamrocks, and maple leaves in low relief adorn the sides, leaving two large spaces, on one of which is the following inscription: "In commemoration of the visit of Lieut.-Col. Skinner and his Team to Wimbledon, 1871. Presented by Sir Peter Tait, D. L., to the Militia of the Dominion of Canada. To be shot for annually by ten members from any corps of Militia in the Dominion at 200, 500, and 600 yards; 7 shots at each range, and to remain in the custody of the Lieut.-Governor of the Province of the winning corps for the time being. The competition each year to be at the Provincial Match of the Province holding the Cup."

"On each of the four larger faces of the pedestal are silver shields, one bearing the Arms of the Dominion of Canada, another having the following inscription: "Won by Capt. Alex. McLennaghan, 22nd Battalion, Oxford Rifles, at the meeting of the National Rifle Association held at Wimbledon, 1871." The other two are vacant, but the future winners names will be inscribed thereon. Opposite the smaller faces on a prolongation of the plinth of the pedestal are four figures in bronze of riflemen at "attention," and the lid or cover of the vase is surmounted by a beaver. There is also a spare lid which was used in England: it is a large acorn in silver, surrounded by oak leaves and a cluster of smaller acorns. The whole stands two feet nine inches in height, of which the pedestal measures nine inches. The vase is nine inches in width and one foot nine inches across the handles."

By the terms on which the cup is to be competed for, it will be seen that it is destined in future to occupy an important position in the prize lists of the annual Rifle Meetings. Ontario has the honour of bringing the prize to Canada, and will also have the honour of the first competition for it. But it is open to all the Provinces, and we hope, therefore, that the competition will not be practically confined to one. To be able to assist in



VASE PRESENTED BY SIR PETER TAIT TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA FOR COMPETITION.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN.

making the Lieut.-Governor of one's Province custodian of such a valuable gift as that presented by Sir Peter Tait to the Militia of Canada, ought to be an object of ambition among the best shots throughout the Dominion. The Cup was only received by Sir George E. Cartier in the early part of last month, which accounts for the long time between the dates of the two following letters in reference to it:—

SOUTHWARK ST., LONDON, 1,
2nd Nov., 1871.

Sir.—Having reference to the recent visit of the Team of Ontario Riflemen to this country, to take part in the Annual Competition at Wimbledon, it affords me pleasure to acquaint you that the Canadians were successful in winning many prizes; and by their good conduct and soldierly bearing made a most favourable impression while in England.

One of the prizes, a Cup of one hundred guineas presented by me, and won by the Team, I have now the pleasure to transmit to you by the hands of Colonel Skinner, and shall feel obliged if you will kindly retain custody of the Cup until a short period prior to the next Annual Matches of the Ontario Rifle Association, and then hand it over to the Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Ontario, so that the same may be again competed for at these Matches in terms of the conditions engraved on the Cup.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
(Signed) PETER TAIT.

Hon. Sir G. E. Cartier, Bart.,
Minister of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND
DEFENCE,
OTTAWA, January 5th, 1871.

Sir,—I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd Nov. last, and to assure you that he is highly pleased to learn that during the visit of the team of Ontario Riflemen to England to take part in the Annual Competition at Wimbledon, the Canadians were successful in winning many Prizes, and that by their good conduct and soldierly bearing they made a favourable impression while there.

The magnificent Cup presented by you and won by the team, has also been received by him through the hands of Col. Skinner. He desires me to tender to you his best thanks for your munificent present, and to assure you that he highly appreciates the deep interest taken by you in the Riflemen of Canada. He will have much pleasure in taking charge of it, and in retaining it in his custody until a short period previous to the Annual Matches of the Ontario Rifle Association, when he will hand it over to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario, to be competed for in terms of the conditions engraved on it.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Geo. FURVOR,
Dept.-Min. of Militia and Defence,
Sir Peter Tait,
London, England.

The Cup is very much admired