

vigilance and forethought to secure some adjacent territories which, if occupied by any foreign power, might be made bases of attack. South Africa will be as unassailable as Australia, and North America a tota of all its truly British territories, whose inhabitants are her own people, is the only portion of our Empire which can possibly be attacked by a large invading land force. The only power which could touch Canada keeps up no standing army, and is now less likely than ever before to form one to attack her.

Our British North American fellow subjects have well provided themselves with a large force, some members of which have just been entertained in England, by a number of representatives then belonging to her, and also coming from the other Colonies. The existence of Colonial military forces must lead all men devoted to the unity of the Empire to desire that they may be made in all respects as similar as possible, as the troops of a great power should be. They are all British troops; those of the Colonies being as much entitled to be called so as those now localized in the United Kingdom. It will be desirable that they should wear the same uniform as well as carry the same flag. We are sure that the proposal emanating from the Royal Colonial Institute, that a Challenge Cup or shield should be shot for by all the volunteer forces of the Empire will be very popular. It is one of those things calculated to excite a healthy rivalry among comrades; and everything should be done to make them feel that they are brothers in arms. One of the greatest objections to the withdrawal of the regiments from the Colonies was that our countrymen, and especially those of them of Colonial birth, were deprived of the sight of good old British red coat. Had we a central Imperial authority like that of Germany, or the United States, there would be a certain number of troops under its control in all parts of the Empire, besides the local forces which might be left to the management of the provincial governments, somewhat as the English militia was formerly under the direction of the county authorities. Of course in the time of war the central government should be empowered to take the command of all local forces, whenever it would be necessary to employ them in conjunction with Imperial troops, although, as we have seen, there would be little likelihood of an invasion occurring to render it necessary that it should do so. But the fact that it might, would impart an Imperial character to all the forces of the Empire.

The navy will be the great force of the future Empire, and it will require to be completely, solely Imperial, and under the entire control of a central authority representing the whole Empire. What an navy such a united power would possess, if in addition to that of the United Kingdom be added a few years hence, such a contingent as could be furnished by British North America, with her tonnage now almost equal to the United States, and by Australia and New Zealand with their numerous ports and vast seaboard!

The expression of self reliance has been used in the most objectionable sense with respect to the Colonies; but they have exhibited it in its most legitimate and worthy sense. They have already shown how willing they are as sections of a great Empire to bear their fair share, in proportion to their population and revenues, in organizing and maintaining defences. They have belied the assertions of those who, in utter ignorance of their sentiments, averred that they hated the people of the United Kingdom

to bear the burden of defending them. As they have grown, they have with the utmost alacrity taken from her shoulders those and more of the weight which the Mother Country had, of course, in their early infancy to bear for them; so much indeed, that there can be little doubt that whenever means are devised, as they may well be, of admitting them to a voice in the decision of Imperial questions of peace or in war, they would soon be cheerfully prepared to go further, and contribute to the defensive forces of the Empire.

We must therefore regard the defence of the Colonies, as well as all other considerations affecting their relations with the mother country, as in a state of transition; and it should be our great desire that everything required for the present period may so be arranged with a view to the more permanent relations of the future, that the Colonies, having passed satisfactorily through the stages of infancy, may most easily settle down to the condition of mature communities, in which, whilst retaining all the advantages of a complete control over their own internal affairs, they shall become partners with the parent state in the great profits, as well as in the responsibilities and management of her great world-wide Empire.

### RIFLE COMPETITION.

#### ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

##### THE ANNUAL MATCHES.

(From the Toronto Leader.)

The annual matches of the Ontario Rifle Association were commenced at the ranges on the Garrison common on Tuesday at noon, and the number of entries for each of the matches shows that the interest taken in rifle shooting is considerably on the increase. During the past season considerable improvements and additions have been made to the ranges, so that every facility is now afforded for carrying on the matches with expedition and regularity. Besides extensive improvements to the old ranges, two new ranges have been erected to the east of the old ones with twelve new targets. The tramway for working the "running man" has been removed further to the east, and a new target, called "the peeping Tom" target, a new idea of Lieut. Col. Scoble's, has been erected immediately to the west of the "running man" target. This kind of target is, we believe, quite a new idea, and yesterday was the first time it has ever been brought into use. An embankment is raised to the height of four or five feet, and behind this is the figure of a man, which is worked on a pivot similar to the pendulum of a clock. Every now and then the man's head appears above the embankment for the space of a few seconds, and whilst it is in this position the shot is fired. Being a new feature in the programme it attracted considerable interest, during the afternoon several gentlemen, including the President of the Association, Col. C. S. Gzowski and Judge Galt, having tried their skill in shooting at the "Fenian," as the image was termed.

From early in the morning Lieut. Col. Scoble was kept busy at his office in issuing tickets to competitors and arranging for the matches. The Colonel himself was prevented from performing the whole of his duties, owing to an accident which he received to his right hand the previous evening whilst assisting in getting the "running man" target into its place, but he found an able substitute in his first assistant, Mr. J. G. Davey. By noon every thing was got in readiness for the matches, and shortly after this hour the firing was commenced.

The Executive Committee is composed of Lt. Col. C. S. Gzowski, Lt. Col. R. B. Denison and Lt. Col. Skinner, and the range officers, Col. Dartnell, Major Jarvis and Capt. Gray.

##### THE PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON.

According to his usual custom, Lieut. Col. Gzowski, President of the Association, entertained a large number of his friends and officers of the Association at a most cheerful luncheon, which was served in the President's marquee at noon.

Lt. Col. Gzowski occupied the chair, and among those present were His Worship the Mayor, Judge Morison, Chief Justice Draper, Judge Galt, Hon. O. Mowat, Hon. G. W. Allan, Hon. D. L. Macpherson, Hon. W. Cayley, Rev. Dr. McQuill, Angus Morison, M. P., R. A. Harrison, Q. C., Lt. Col. French, Lt. Col. Macpherson, Lt. Col. Villiers, Lt. Col. Durie, D. A. G., Lt. Col. Scoble, Lt. Col. Denison, Lt. Col. G. T. Denison, Jr., Lt. Col. Gilmore, Lt. Col. Skinner, Col. Goodwin, Capt. Gray, Capt. D. Gibson, Surgeon, De La Hooke, Major Arthurs, Major Dartnell, Col. Ross, Col. Boulton, Major Alger, Major Boulton, Capt. H. Leo, Capt. Moore, Capt. J. G. Mason, Jno. Crawford, M. F., Capt. Cotton, Lt. Cotton, Lt. Holmes, Surgeon Thorburn, Surgeon Richardson, Captain Prince, Captain Ramsay, Lieutenant Anderson, Messrs J. G. Worts, John Gordon, J. O. Hewart, J. E. Smith, W. S. Lee, J. Michie, H. P. Dwight, Dr. Givens, C. Befford, E. R. Parkhurst, — Plumb (Niagara), and others.

The fine band of the Port Hope Battalion performed in the enclosure, outside of the marquee, during the luncheon.

After full justice had been done to the excellent spread provided, the Chairman proposed the toast of "The Queen; God bless her!" which was drunk with three rousing cheers.

Chief-Justice Draper then proposed "The Ontario Rifle Association," coupling with it the name of the President, Lieut. Colonel Gzowski. He said they all had political differences, but on such occasions as the present they banished them from their minds, and he was sure every one present wished every success to the Association which was established to defend the honour, rights, and Dominion of her Majesty the Queen. He contrasted the organization of the Canadian Militia during the war of 1812 and the organization of the present day. The favourable change which had taken place was not brought about by Government influence, but it had sprung from the hearts of the people. To no man did they owe so much for the encouragement of rifle shooting as they did to Col. Gzowski; and he could not help referring in terms of regret to a rumor that he was about to retire from the Presidency of the Association.

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

Lt. Col. Gzowski in rising to respond was received with great applause. He expressed the gratification and pride he experienced at the manner in which the toast had been received. It afforded him great pleasure to see so many influential gentlemen present, not only from Toronto but from all over the Province. It showed that they took a lively interest in the work and objects of the Association. The Association was now in a most prosperous condition, but still there was room for further exertion. He referred to the success which had been attained by Canadians at Wimbledon, and expressed his conviction that the most effectual and cheapest way to defend the country was by means of Rifle Associations, and in support of his convictions, he quoted observations of the Earl of Dufferin and Sir Charles Wynd-