

ceiving a report that Big Bear had given himself up on the 2nd July to a small detachment of mounted police at Carlton. This actually completed the perfect success of our campaign, but our joy was damped by the untimely death of Lt. Col. Williams, M.P., commanding the Midlanders. He died on board the steamer from the effects of a chill. His loss was universally deplored, not only by us, his comrades, but by the whole of Canada. I cannot better conclude this narrative than by quoting the General Order with which I took leave of my force:

"In thus completing the breaking-up of the Northwest Field Force, which has been under the immediate command of Major General Middleton during the late campaign, he cannot let the officers and men comprising it separate without expressing his great satisfaction with them. During the whole time he has not had to assemble one court-martial; and, in fact, there has been an almost total absence of crime. The troops have had great hardships to undergo, and real difficulties to overcome, and have borne and met them like men, with ready cheerfulness and without complaint. They, as untried volunteer-soldiers, have had to move in a country where an extraordinary scare existed, had against an enemy with whom it was openly prophesied they would be unable to cope, unless with great superiority of numbers. The scare they disregarded, as shown by the fact that during the whole three months not more than two or three false alarms took place in camp, and the prophecy they falsified by beating back the enemy with a fighting line only equal if not inferior to him in numbers. Each regiment, corps, or arm of the service has vied one against the other, and each has equally well done its duty; not forgetting the transport service, which under its two able officers has so well aided our movements, the medical department which has been so efficiently directed, and the chaplains who have so carefully and arduously ministered to our spiritual comforts. The Major General in taking farewell of his old comrades begs to wish them all happiness and success in their several walks in life, and to sincerely thank them, one and all, for having by their gallantry, good conduct, and hard work, enabled him to carry to a successful conclusion what will probably be his last campaign."

The End.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

If the account of their stewardship for 1893, issued by the Council of the National Rifle Association, is not of that all-round rosy character which they, and the friends of the interests confided to their care, would have wished, there is a good deal in it from which heart of grace may be taken. That portion of the report which is addressed personally to the members is very brief. No effort is made to minimise the effect of such of its phases as fail to afford subject for congratulation, while, on the other hand, no undue elation is manifested in reference to matters having the merit of being satisfactory. The past year's report is the thirty-fourth of the series, and the fourth since the removal from Wimbledon to Bisley Heath, where the meeting, if it does not flourish like the proverbial green bay-tree, is at least firmly rooted and acclimatised. As we have said, the report, pure and simple, is brief, and its points calling for special notice are few. We are referred to Lord Robert's advocacy of the standing position for short-range shooting. In this connection some curiosity may, perhaps, be felt as to whether the Council will have the courage of his Lordship's opinion and endeavour to introduce more shoulder shooting into

this season's programme. Mention is also made of the admission of Veterans to certain competitions as heretofore. Our readers are aware of what is contemplated in reference to this class of competition this year. In regard to Tyros, for whom considerable provision was made by the addition of one hundred £1 prizes in the first stage of the Queen's, and the institution of the Jeffery. All will be interested in the information that 208 of these hitherto non-winners took prizes in the Queen's list.

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The financial features of the report, which are the real tests of success or failure, are, to quote from the book itself, "fairly satisfactory." The sum of £1,000 has been paid off the amount due to the bankers. This reduction of liability has, admittedly, not been effected on the strength of the year's profits, seeing that none was made. The payment was made chiefly out of the balance brought forward from 1892. Regarding the actual trading—to speak commercially—there was a loss of a little over £200 on the year's transactions, as against over double that sum in 1892. In view of the foregoing, it is scarcely necessary for the Council to state that they will not consider the position of the Association to be thoroughly satisfactory until the receipts exceed the expenditure. The throwing open of certain competitions during the first week of the meeting had the effect of somewhat increasing the receipts; there was, however, a considerable set-off for expenses caused thereby. Something will no doubt be said at the general meeting on these points, as no expression of approval or otherwise of the innovation is made in the report. There is one matter, a little one of itself, perhaps, but which is welcome as indicating which way the wind blows, and that is, the increase in the number of visitors to the camp during the meeting. In 1892 the members of what may be called "the public" who visited Bisley were 5,451; last year these figures were exceeded by about five hundred. The greater influx of people did not, however, mean a corresponding number of shillings to the coffers of the Association, owing to an arrangement by which the railway company shares in the proceeds. The Council have unfortunately to deplore a continuance of the falling-off—apparent in other years—in the receipts from annual subscriptions. More serious still is the decrease in the number of entries for most of the principal prizes, i.e. those that constitute the backbone of the Bisley meeting.

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The various comparative tables provided for the information of the members afford interest and instruction. Taking the Queen's, as coming first in order of importance, we find that the entries fell away by fifty-three from the previous year, and by forty-five for the the George's. The All-Comers, Grand Aggregate, and the Martins suffered in about the same degree, and the Volunteer Aggregate and Daily Graphic still more severely. To mention some few others of the M.-H. competitions; the Armourers lost forty-six entries; Alexandra, seventeen; Extra Prizes, forty-four; Gregory, 102; Heath, 376; Pirbright, upwards of 500. Against the foregoing, the entries for the Carrington went up 268, the Extra Prizes and Kynoch over 200 each, the Pavilion considerably over 100. In the first series of the Tit-Bits there was the large addition of over 700 to the figures of 1892, whilst nearly 300 more entrants were attracted by the new conditions of the Prince of Wales, and the Wantage had not far short of an increase of 400. The hope of winning one of the sixteen prizes in the Jeffery drew 1,037 entries. The success of this contest should, we think, be sufficiently en-

couraging to induce the Council to see the expediency of extending the prize list this year. The entries in the Any Rifle category would seem to have been a diminishing quantity, mainly owing to a falling-off of about one-third for the Association Cup contest. On the other hand, those in the five competitions reserved for M.B.L. rifles show an increase of thirty-three, a result which is chiefly due to the Steward. Whilst proof was afforded of increased interest in such team contests as the Brinsmead, Belgian, Mappin, Mullens, and the China Cup, etc., it is regrettable to see a drop of from thirteen teams to eight in the Duke of Westminster. In this connection we cannot help thinking that the path of wisdom lays in the direction of offering money prizes in addition to the trophy. There was a decline in the aggregate of entrants for the contests restricted to sporting rifles; and, on the contrary, a very material increase is apparent in the category of competitions headed as "various," there seeming to have been a considerable rush of competitors. These include the Morris, Smokeless Powder, Walsrode, and the Whitehead, and they between them ran on the substantial addition of upwards of five hundred more entries than in 1892. The various revolver and pistol competitions show equally satisfactory results, whilst there were more than five thousand shots fired at ordinary pool. In conclusion, it may be stated that a comparison of the shooting results of the various competitions of 1893 compare in a highly favorable manner with those of the previous year.—The Volunteer Record.

THE CANADIAN MILITIA

ITS IMPERIAL IMPORTANCE.

In common with other of our Colonial Forces the Canadian Militia is far too frequently regarded from a limited and local point of view, and it is forgotten that it is in fact a not unimportant link in the scheme of Imperial Defence. True, there are other links upon which the principal strain of any war we are likely to be engaged in will more probably fall, but it cannot be predicted, when once hostilities have broken out, what portions of the Empire may become affected nor precisely what duties will fall to each. This much, however, is certain, that a colony neglecting during peace to prepare to the best of its ability for its own defence is inviting attack at any time that, in the opinion of an enemy, it could not easily at the moment be afforded support by the Imperial Forces.

We would not be understood to in any way advocate a selfish and shortsighted policy on the part of any of the Colonies, a policy which would dissociate the defence of particular portions of the Empire from that of the whole. On the contrary, we hold that the safety and well-being of the Empire absolutely require that a complete understanding should be arrived at by all its component parts as to the requirements for Imperial Defence.

In this connection the old illustration of the bundle of sticks is peculiarly applicable. As Sir George Chesney observed in the course of his admirable paper on "The British Empire," read by him at the meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute on Tuesday, it requires no great stretch of the imagination to foresee that a great war breaking out before any mutual understanding or agreement had been arrived at between the Mother Country and the Colonies as to the relative obligations to be undertaken by them, or any machinery provided for the proper employment of their joint resour-