

against all "comers," provided the people would make an earnest endeavor to secure the means of defence which Providence has placed within their reach. With a hundred and fifty thousand such rifles in the hands of a hundred and fifty thousand men who knew how to handle them, with such trained forces as are now organized or being organized, together with the assistance Fatherland would be able and willing to send us, we could hold our own against any power in the world. If this be a fact, and I think it is, surely it ought to stimulate every patriotic mind to inquire whether steps cannot be taken to attain its realization. I stand before you this evening at the request of some of my townsmen to propose a scheme which has for its object this consummation. The plan which I am about to propose I do not claim to be original. Had it only occurred to myself, I should doubt its feasibility, but as it has suggested itself, at least in part, to many others, for whose judgment and sound common sense I have the greatest respect, I am led to believe it possesses the elements of success. Although in the development of the scheme which is about to be proposed the aid of the Government will, to a certain extent, be required, the patriotic spirit which animates the people will be mainly relied on to carry it out.—It is indeed on the general prevalence and strength of this spirit that I found my hopes for its adoption and development.

Before introducing the scheme let me first reiterate its object. The object simply is to arm for defensive purposes a great part of the effective inhabitants of the country, with the most approved breech-loading rifle, and accustom them to its use without incurring any serious outlay on the part of the Government, or without making such a demand on the time of the people that would materially interfere with those industrial pursuits, upon which the prosperity of the country so much depends. It is proposed to attain this object by a joint action on the part of the different municipalities and the Government. It is upon the assumption that this co-operation can be secured that the plan is based. Without such co-operation the whole scheme falls to the ground. There is something which the municipalities must do, and there is something which the Government must do.

1. The different municipalities must appropriate annually a certain reasonable sum to be distributed as prizes. The prizes

to be awarded to the best "rifle shots" in the different municipalities.

2. The Government must supply the rifle to the different municipalities at something below cost price, and cartridges at cost-price; and at the same time appropriate annually a certain reasonable sum for prizes to be competed for by the best "marksmen" in the Provinces.

3. For every two or three municipalities some one must be appointed with a fixed salary, to be paid either by the Government or by the municipalities, who shall combine within himself the double function of Rifle Inspector and Rifle Instructor.

Assuming that this joint action on the part of the Government and the Municipalities can be secured we will proceed to the consideration of some of the details of the scheme.

The prize money contributed by each County or Riding would have to be divided into two portions. One portion to be appropriated for Township prizes, the other for County prizes. The successful competitors at the Township matches alone being allowed to compete at the County matches. This division might be so ordered that a County prize would be double that of a Township prize. Again the successful competitors at the County matches only should be allowed to compete for Provincial prizes. For illustration let us assume that the South Riding of Wellington, which is composed of four Townships, would vote the sum of \$1200 annually, and that our Government would be liberal enough to come down with, we will say, \$4,000. Of the \$1200 I would make two sums,—one of \$800 and the other of \$400. I would divide the \$800 into four equal parts. This would give us \$200 for each Township of the Riding. Out of each \$200, twelve prizes might be formed ranging from \$4 up to \$50. Of the remaining \$400 twelve County prizes likewise might be made, these would clearly range from \$8 up to \$100. And of the \$4,000 appropriated by Government there could be twelve prizes formed just ten times as large as the County prizes. The highest prize being \$1,000 and the lowest \$80. By this arrangement every competitor at a Township match would have a chance of carrying off one of twelve prizes, varying from \$4 to \$50, and every one who was successful would have a second chance of one of twelve prizes at the County match, varying from \$8 to \$100, and every fortunate competitor there would have the still further