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# The Volunteer Review,

AND

## MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Untried, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1875.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *per post*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

LIEUT. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDWARDS, of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

We have to thank the courtesy of the Librarian and Assistant Secretary of the Royal United Service Institution, for a report of the 44th annual meeting, which displays in a striking manner the zeal and efficiency of the officers to whose care its management is entrusted, especially the Secretary and Librarian, and affords a gratifying proof of the interest taken in military science by those who have voluntarily, or otherwise, chosen a military life as a profession.

We have also to thank the Librarian for copies of "A Warning Voice from the Spanish Armada," by Major General T. B. Colman, R. E., and a paper "On Military (or Strategic) and Refuge Harbors" by Sir JOHN COADE, Bart., M. J. C. E. On both those interesting papers we shall have something to say at a future time; but what we deem of most importance just now is a paper entitled, "A Synopsis of the History of Cavalry," containing the programme for the competition invited by His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke NICHOLAS NICHOLAIEVICH, Inspector General of Russian Cavalry.

As the proposed competition is International, and we have at least one Cavalry Officer capable of entering the lists, we pub-

lish the paper in full—as issued by the Secretary of the Royal United Service Institution for the information of all who may wish to compete.

The list of authorities on this most interesting subject is of great value, as it enables competitors to at once proceed to the consultation of the historical records of the various periods.

We have to thank our good friend T. D. SULLIVAN, Esq., for the annual report.

### ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.

The 44th annual meeting of the Institution was held on Saturday, March 6th, in the theatre of the Institution, Whitehall. The Secretary of State for War, the Right Hon. Gathorne Hardy was expected to preside, but was prevented by having to attend a cabinet meeting. In his absence Lord Pembroke occupied the chair.

The report of the Council stated that during the past year the net increase of members amounted to 54, the total number now being 4,330. The funded property on the 1st January last was £10,189.2s.8d., as compared with £9,465.2s.4d., at the beginning of 1874. During the past year 397 volumes were added to the library, 213 having been purchased and 184 presented. The library now contained 16,624 volumes. In response to the offer of a prize medal for the best essay on recruiting 79 essays had been received, the referees being General Sir Wm. Codrington, G. C. B., Lieut. General Sir John St. George, K. C. B., and Major General Shute, G. B., M. P. The report also expressed the regret of the Council at the death during the past year of one of the Vice Patrons, the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, and three Vice Presidents—Colonel P. J. Yorke, F. N. S., Lieut. General the Hon. Sir J. Lindsay, K. C. M. G., and Captain Packe.

Admiral Sir Alexandro Milne, G. C. B., proposed, "That the report now read be adopted and printed for circulation among the members." In doing so he congratulated the members upon the continued prosperity of the Institution, which conferred great advantages upon those officers who were connected with it. Even foreign Governments were well aware of the value of the Institution, as was shown by the number of charts and maps which they had presented to the Library. Considering the benefits which the services and through the Government derived from the Institution, he thought it was only fair that the Government should be asked to give some assistance in obtaining a new site, where their Library and Museum might be properly arranged.

General Sir T. Adie, K. C. B., R. A., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

General Sir F. Chapman, K. C. B., R. E., proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring members of Council, the re-election of Lieut. Colonel F. R. Aikman, V. C.; Captain A. C. Tupper, F. S. A.; Vice Admiral Oummaney, C. B., F. R. S.; and the election of Lieut. Colonel Crossman, R. E.; Captain the Right Hon. Lord Gilford, R. N.; Captain J. C. Wilson, R. N.; Rear Admiral Wiles, and Captain R. A. C. Scott, R. N.

Captain Scott, R. N., seconded the resolution. The value of the Institution, he said, greatly depended upon the support given to it by its influential members. It was not enough for English officers to be on a dead level of mediocrity with those of other Governments. Unless they were in advance of the officers of other countries both in

arms and in their ability to handle them, it would be impossible for England to maintain her prestige and superiority.

The resolution having been agreed to, Col. Lord Waveney, A. D. C., to the Queen, proposed, and General Sir E. Hodge, K. C. B., seconded, a vote of thanks to the Auditors. This was also agreed to.

The gold medal for the best essay in Recruiting was awarded to Captain H. W. Hime, R. A.

Vice Admiral Sir F. Nicolson, Bart. C. B., proposed the thanks of the meeting to the Referees who had adjudicated on the merits of the essays, and announced that the subject for the ensuing year would be the type of ships for the Royal Navy.

The motion having been seconded by Major General Stephenson, C. B., was agreed to, as was also a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by General Sir Wm. Codrington and seconded by Admiral Oummaney.

General Sir Wm. Codrington, G. C. B., expressed his regret at the enforced absence of the Secretary of State for War, but regarded it as an evidence of the interest the Right Hon. Gathorne Hardy took in the Institution, that he had requested Lord Pembroke to occupy his place on this occasion.

The Chairman in reply said that the Secretary for War was greatly disappointed at his absence, but had been suddenly summoned to a cabinet meeting. He, himself was quite convinced of the enormous advantages which the Institution offered to the officers of the two services. The great difficulty to be dealt with on the question of Recruiting was the necessity of combining economy with efficiency, and this was always a somewhat hard matter. The Institution rendered great service to the Government on such points, and no doubt would continue to do so in future.

The following Memorandum is circulated for the information of those members of the Institution and others who may wish to compete for the Imperial Russian Prize Essay on "The History of Cavalry," to be rendered at St. Petersburg on the 1st (13th) January, 1877.

By Order,  
B. CROSS, Capt.,  
Secretary,

Whitehall Yard, Jan., 1875.

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievitch, Inspector-General of Russian Cavalry, recognising the incompleteness of any existing treatise on cavalry history, and considering that so important a service merits the closest study, has determined, with the sanction of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, to offer for the three best essays on the above subject three prizes of 5,000, 3,000 and 2,000 roubles respectively. In order to encourage international scientific intercourse, His Imperial Highness has decided to throw the competition open to all foreign armies, but non-Russian competitors will have to get their productions translated into that language. All competing essays must be handed in at St. Petersburg on or before the 1st (13) of January, 1877, when they will be carefully examined by a committee nominated by His Imperial Highness, and the prizes adjudged.

The programme for such essay, together with an explanatory memorandum, and a list of the books which may be consulted, are appended hereto.

A. GORLOFF,  
Major-General of the Suite of His Majesty the Emperor, and Military Attaché to the Imperial Russian Embassy in London.