

from Texas to the subarctic forests the Saskatchewan valley lays its fur length for 800 miles in unmix'd fertility."

Hind, Archbishop Tache, Butler, Palliser, and Selwyn, the reports of the exploring parties for the Pacific Railway, all confirm this fact. Of the western curve of the fertile belt, especially that portion through the Blackfoot country (of most of which Butler in winter speaks so slightly), extending for 300 miles along the eastern faces of the Rocky Mountains, with a varying breadth of from sixty to eighty miles—our scientific and official observer speaks as "the future garden of the Dominion," magnificent with regard to scenery, with soil of surpassing richness, and in respect of climate with an average temperature during the winter months 15 deg. higher than that of the western portion of Ontario. Here, as yet uninhabited except by the roving Indian and the wild animals of the prairies and forest, are undoubtedly regions of cultivable land, and of a climate as salubrious for a hardy race as any in the world; an area greater than that now inhabited by 40,000,000 of American citizens. The tide of emigration, which has been bearing upon the centre of the American continent, and been rolling westward in great waves, is now checked by the impassible borders of the great American desert. Who can doubt that it will diverge to the north, and be the currents of life and civilization up the great valley of the Saskatchewan?

The last link in this long chain of empire is British Columbia, on the western coast, combining in itself almost all the advantages possessed by the most favoured northern countries of Europe, with a concentration and variety of wealth and solidity of promise which, could it only be reached by population would make of it alone a mighty nation. We shall see directly that British Columbia has, in its situation, climatic advantages rivalling those of Great Britain. A great stream running from the tropics impinges upon its coast and disseminates its salubrious influences over an extent of country much greater than that of the British Isles. The facts related about this wonderful region, whether as regards its agricultural capacity or its mineral riches, are almost incredible. It is said that in its forests are trees of six, ten, or even twenty seven to thirty feet in diameter, some of them ranging from 150 to 300 feet in length, without knots or branches. The total area is 350,000 square miles, of which the wheat area south of lat. 55 deg. N. is 96,000,000 acres, \$22,000,000 of gold have been extracted from its gold mines, which can scarcely be said to have been as yet fairly explored. Its coalfields, in which are found veins unexampled in size and quality, will probably before long be the chief source of supply for Pacific navigation. The result of recent explorations of these coalfields gives these surprising facts. The productive area may be safely considered to be at least 300 square miles. Following the rule applied to coalfields in South Wales, the Union Mine at Cromot alone would yield 16,000,000 tons per square mile. The total thickness, it is stated, of the coal measure in the Nanimo coalfields may be safely estimated at 2,500 feet. It will be seen at once how important this place—so fortunately situated, so richly endowed by nature—is likely to become. The Canadian Pacific Railway will place New Westminster some 500 miles nearer London than San Francisco. The Railway will run upon a lower and more level grade. The greater part of it will pass, as we have seen, not like the Union Pacific Railway, through a desert, but through a country

capable of bearing a vast population. No harbours like those of British Columbia can be found on the Pacific coast, and when communications are established and trade is developed between the Pacific shores of the Dominion and China, Japan, and even Australia, who can doubt the important part which British Columbia is destined to play in the history of the British Empire.

(To be Continued.)

District of Bedford Rifle Association.

A meeting of the District of Bedford Rifle Association was held at Cutler's Hotel; Sweetsburg, on the 10th inst., at which there was present, the Hon. Judge Dunkin, Lt.-Col.'s Miller, Fletcher, C. M. G., and Hall; Majors, Hon. M. Aylmer and Gilmour; Doctor Gibson; Captains Jameson, P. Smith, Robinson, Brooks and Hall; Lieuts. Bulman, Perkins and Artis, &c.

The minutes of the last meeting and the Financial Statement, having been approved and adopted. The following gentlemen were elected office bearers for this year.

President—Col. Miller.

Vice-President—Cols. Hall, and Rowe; Dr. Gibson, Mr. Lynch, M.P.P., Mr. Pattes, M. P., G. B. Baker, Esq., Majors Amyrauld, Gilmour and Cox.

Patron—Hon. S. J. Huntington, M.P.

Vice-Patrons—Hon. Judge Dunkin, Hon. A. B. Foster, Lt.-Col. Fletcher, C.M.G., *Secy.-Treas*—Hon. M. Aylmer, B.M.

Council—Office Bearers, and Captains of Companies.

Executive Committee—Lt.-Cols. Fletcher, Miller and Hall, Major Aylmer, Lieuts. Latimer, Whitman and Adjutant Perkins.

Range Committee—Captains Mynes, Brooks, and Codd, Lieuts. Latimer and Artis.

Moved by Lt. Bulman, seconded by Captain Smith, "that the next match be held at Waterloo, provided that a suitable range be obtained, and proper encouragement in aid of the prize first be given by the people of that place." Carried.

Moved by Major Aylmer, seconded by Captain Smyth, "that the Annual Matches be held about the end of September, or as soon after that time, as the performance of the Annual Drill will allow." Carried.

Moved by Major Aylmer, seconded by Major Gilmour, "that the last year's prize list be adopted and that a money prize be substituted in place of the cup, now the property of the 79th Highlanders." Carried.

Moved by Dr. Gibson, seconded by Capt. Smith, "that this Association is most desirous to place on record its expression of deep regret, at the recent decease of Major Robert Manson, late of the 52nd Batt., long an active, and zealous volunteer officer of this District, and member of this Association, and of the sympathy felt by all its members, with his widow and family, in their painful bereavement." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Capt. Smith, seconded by Col. Hall, "that the thanks of this Association be offered to Colonel Fletcher, for his efficient services, as Secretary Treasurer, and that he be elected a life member of the Association." Carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned and may be considered one of the most successful of the kind held in this or any other Province of the Dominion.

When our leading statesmen, professional men, and agriculturists, think it worth their while to cheer on the soldiers of their country, in their healthy and useful recreations, we as a budding nation may congratulate ourselves, that during these "piping

times of peace" we are preventing the dire contingency of civil war.

It is at these country matches where Canadian Wimbledon heroes first sprout into "shooting existence"—where the eye must be clear, the nerves of steel, and the hand as steady as a rock, ere the coveted prize can be won, and be handed with pride, at the home of the winners.

Mr. G. B. Baker, very generously offered a Range on his property at Sweetsburg, upon which the matches might be fired, this year. However, it is more than probable the meeting will take place at Waterloo, as there has been no contest there for several years.—*St. Johns News*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications address to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

TO MAJOR ROBERT PATTERSON 48TH BATT. V.M.

DEAR SIR,—The officers, non commissioned officers, and members of No. 4 company, have great pleasure in presenting you with this sword. In offering it to you we desire to express our full sense of the firmness, fairness, and kindness—the three chief requisites in an officer—with which you commanded the company, and also, of the state of credit and efficiency, always and every where acknowledged, in which you handed it over to your successor.

We are no doubt sorry to lose you from the company, but we beg, nevertheless, to congratulate you very heartily on your promotion.

We hope this weapon, not of offence but defence may happily, not *rust* but *rest* in it scabbard, while you yourself enjoy every prosperity; but we know, if ever called on, it will leap forth and be wielded with thorough good will, force, and honour.

We are dear sir,

Your attached friends and
Companions in arms.

For the Company.

J. C. MURRAY, Capt.
Amhurst Island, 5th March, 1875.

REPLY TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF NO. 4 COMPANY, 48TH BATT. V.M.

Brother officers, and companions in arms, I feel proud to accept the *token of esteem* which you have now tendered, but prouder still to be the *possessor of that esteem* which has moved you to do this.

You refer to my "Firmness," "Fairness" and "Kindness," while in command of the company. Discipline is the "soul and conscience" of military life, and without a certain amount of firmness it would soon cease to exist. If I have been fortunate enough to combine the *three qualities*, while acting as your captain, much of the credit is due to yourselves seeing that, in all the camps through which you have passed, No. 4 has always been noted, for correct soldierly deportment and good behaviour; and I trust you will hereafter give to my successor in command, the same amount of help and sympathy which I received on all occasions from you. And, *be my place in the Battalion what it may*, I shall ever look back on the time, when I was your commander, with heartfelt satisfaction.

I shall keep and *highly prize*, the weapon you have now bestowed, and should the time (unfortunately) ever come, when our active service is required; and "our country and our sovereign call," may my "right hand forget its patterning," if I forget to draw.

R. PATTERSON, Major 48th Batt.
Stella, March, 5th 1875.