

Ontario Artillery Association.

Proceedings of the third annual meeting—The annual Reports— Officers elected.

THE Ontario Artillery Association—the father of future provincial associations and the eldest son of the Dominion Artillery Association—held its third annual meeting at the Rossin House on Tuesday, the 7th instant.

At 11 a.m. the last of the Council meetings of the Association was held, at which were present Major Nicoll, A Battery, 1st B. F. A., in the chair; Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G.; Lt.-Col. Hogg, R.L.; Lt.-Col. F. Denison, C.M.G., M.P.; Lt.-Col. Peters, London F. B.; Majors King, Welland F. B.; Stewart, Ottawa F. B.; Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B.; Hood, B Battery, 1st B. F. A.; Mead, Toronto F. B.; McLean, Durham F. B.; Mr. Irving (the secretary), and Mr. Malloch (the treasurer).

The Secretary's report, the Treasurer's statement, also a report from the Executive Committee, were submitted. Summaries of these reports are appended.

You will excuse me if I make errors—but there was an annual meeting, a meeting of the Executive Committee, a meeting of Council, and so many bewildering remarks to an outsider—such as "parallelogram of error," "burst above plane," "Scott's improved sight"—that really I don't know whether these "vouchers," if they were such, were produced.

At noon, they had the annual general meeting. In addition to the above officers present I noticed others: Lt.-Col. Macdonald, 1st B. F. A.; Capt. Hendrie, Hamilton F. B.; Capt. Davidson, Adjutant 1st B. F. A.; Messrs. Myles, Bankier, Smith, and many others. Col. Hogg, late of Collingwood Garrison Battery, was in the chair.

The annual meeting was, so to speak, the *piece de resistance*. The report of Council there presented is also appended.

Col. Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen, and Mr. Robert Myles, Toronto F. B., were, on account of their liberal grants to the association and in accordance with the constitution, elected life members.

The Hon. John Beverley Robinson, late patron of the association, in his official capacity as Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and Col. Gzowski were elected vice-patrons of the association.

Major Mead's motion that the present Council should be done away with and that the association should be managed by an executive committee consisting of five elected members, together with the secretary and the treasurer, was carried.

This is a "pointer" which I think the Dominion Artillery Association and even the Rifle Association might profit by; anybody glancing over their annual reports cannot but be struck by their large body of management.

This brings me to the fact that new officers were elected, and they were as follows:—

President, Lt.-Col. J. Peters, London, F. B.; Vice-Presidents Majors King, Welland F. B.; Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B.; Stewart, Ottawa F. B.; Mead, A Battery 1st B. F. A.; representative of the Ontario Association on the Dominion Council, Major McLean, Durham F. B.; Secretary, Mr. L. H. Irving; Treasurer, Mr. A. H. Malloch; Executive Committee—the future governing body: Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery; Major McLean, Durham F. B.; Major Mead, Toronto F. B.; Captain Hendrie, Hamilton F. B.; Captain Davidson, 1st B.F.A.

Votes of thanks were passed to Col. Gray, Brigade-Major, and Captain McMurrich, late presidents, for the interest which they had shown in the association, also to the auditor, Major Delamere, Q.O.R.

A vote was also passed thanking the Ontario Government for their liberal grant to the Association.

LINCH PIN.

THE ANNUAL REPORTS.

FROM THE COUNCIL.

The Council of the Association presents herewith the report for the year 1887 of the Executive Committee, of the Secretary and of the Treasurer, with the accounts duly audited.

Affiliation.—The gentlemen cadets, R. M. C. of C., ten field batteries and one garrison battery have affiliated with this association during the past year.

Gun Practice.—The average firing of the batteries shows a slight decrease notwithstanding the fact that Scott's improved sight was used. This Council in suggesting last year that some new sight should be obtained did not intend that the expense of it should fall upon the Dominion Artillery Association, but that the Government should be influenced with a view to supplying all field batteries with them. This Council would now suggest that unless one sight per battery be furnished, the firing be continued as heretofore, i.e., with the service sight.

Ranges.—The practice was again carried out without the batteries being concentrated and also during annual drill. The time now authorized (12 days) is too short to permit of this. A new range was inspected by some members of the executive committee.

Last year's recommendations have been partly carried out. The number of rounds per battery to enable officers to compete has been increased, the batteries

partly concentrated, but there has been no marked increase to the Dominion Artillery Association. The arrangements respecting transport and subsistence of firing squads attending practice are very unsatisfactory.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

1. The committee regret that the transport arrangements are very unsuitable and most defective. In fact the conditions under which the artillery practice is carried out practically amounts to fining the officers and men for attending and places the Association under pecuniary obligations to the officers of the various batteries.

2. The committee beg to represent that in the interest of the Association it would be more advisable that its affairs should be managed entirely by a committee elected annually than under an unwieldy council.

3. The committee beg to report that they consider the range at Port Colborne, principally on account of its inaccessibility, very unsatisfactory, and this committee would suggest a range in a central locality immediately east of Toronto.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Balance.....	\$ 245 81
Ontario Government grant.....	500 00
Affiliation fees.....	116 00
Members' subscriptions.....	182 00
Sale of cards.....	4 60
Interest.....	13 88
Toronto Field Battery, 1888.....	10 00
Total.....	\$1,072 29

Expenditure.

Affiliation fees to Dominion Artillery Association.....	\$ 146 00
Prize list, 1886.....	170 00
" 1887.....	351 00
Printing annual reports, etc.....	54 25
C. & J. Allen for "timer".....	12 00
Expenses surveying range.....	11 00
Stationery, postage, etc.....	9 18
Allowance to Secretary.....	50 00
Bank charges, etc.....	0 55
Balance cash.....	268 31
Total.....	\$1,072 29

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Ontario field batteries fired at ranges at Port Colborne for the five western batteries encamped at Niagara, and at Kingston for the eastern batteries. On comparing the average firing with that of last year a small decrease is noticed, which the secretary considers due to a combination of want of preliminary training in laying and the use without previous experience of the new sight. The garrison batteries, consisting of three at the beginning of the year, have not fired. Collingwood was disbanded by general orders, Cobourg was not authorized to drill, and Toronto, the only battery which did drill, has not fired. The individual membership of the association has greatly increased during the past year.

The Union Jack.

IT'S only a small bit of bunting,
It's only an old coloured rag;
Yet thousands have died for its honour
And shed their best blood for the flag.

It's charged with the cross of St. Andrew
Which of old Scotland's heroes has led;
It carries the cross of St. Patrick,
For which Ireland's bravest have bled.

Joined with these on our own English ensign,
St. George's red cross on white field;
Round which from King Richard to Wolsley
Britons conquer or die, but ne'er yield.

It flutters triumphant o'er ocean,
As free as the wind and the wave;
And bondsman from shackles now loosened
Neath its shadows no longer a slave.

It floats over Cyprus and Malta,
O'er Canada, the Indies and Hong Kong
And Britons where'er the flag's flying,
Claim the rights which to Britons belong.

We hoist it to show our devotion
To our Queen, our country and laws;
It's the outward and visible emblem
Of advancement and liberty's cause.

You may say it's an old bit of bunting,
You may call it an old coloured rag;
But freedom has made it majestic,
And time has ennobled the flag.

An Odessa correspondent writes: There are at present no fewer than 2,000 soldiers in hospital in the Odessa District under treatment for ophthalmia. It has a less acute form. The greatest ophthalmic patients are never treated by a qualified practitioner, but are left entirely in the hands of ignorant regimental dispensers. There are no available statistics to show how many Russian soldiers are every year rendered permanently blind through aggravated ophthalmia and neglected treatment, but I have the authority of the first ophthalmic doctors in Russia for saying that the number is very large.

Jones attended a wedding the other day where the groom was an infantry officer. "One of the best branches of the Service," he remarked, as he congratulated the bride; "deaths are so frequent that advancement is certain and rapid."

He might of added, to make the thing complete, but then, Madam, "death loves a shinning mark," and your husband is certain to be one of the survivors.