

portance of a military spirit being cultivated in the community. One thing he rejoiced in extremely, and that was the oneness of sentiment among the people of the Dominion with respect to the old fatherland, and the spirit of loyalty to the previous history which pervaded all classes. This sentiment, he said, was particularly strong amongst the military portion of the community.

### The New Wimbledon.

A committee of the Council of the National Rifle Association have foreshadowed the more important changes which it is proposed to introduce into the programme of the Bisley meeting. Advantage will be taken of the perfect immunity from danger arising from stray bullets, which the Bisley ranges afford, to establish field firing competitions at moving and figure targets, by teams. It is also contemplated to admit teams of regulars to some of the field practice contests. It has not transpired that any material departure is intended in respect of the time-honoured volunteer competitions, except that some slight modification in the conditions regulating the Mullens contest is contemplated. A new rapid firing competition for individuals, at 500 yards, is proposed, in which the object will be to get off as many shots as possible within one minute. It is likely that competitors will on this new range be able to get their sighting at the same butts as the 200, 500 and 600 yards competitions are to be conducted at. The Council will recommend that use of the orthoptic be not allowed in competitions shot under volunteer conditions. It is said to be doubtful, however, if their decision will be approved at the annual winter meeting to be held on the 27th instant.

The *Volunteer Service Gazette* earnestly protests against a published proposition that field-firing and volley-firing shall for the future be encouraged at the expense of individual competition, and says:—

“Field-firing competitions on the model of those known at Wimbledon as the Mullens and the Brinsmead may be developed and multiplied at Bisley, and there may be more volley-firing contests, though we hardly see how the latter can be increased. But the great National Rifle Association must, under any circumstances, depend mainly on its competitions for *individuals*, and must take the most sedulous care to have the fairest and best-understood conditions for those competitions. In fact, the great success which the National Rifle Association has achieved during the last thirty years has entirely resulted from the Council having always borne in mind the importance of this. And it must be remembered that there can be no satisfactory competition of any kind unless the relative merits of each contestant, or body of contestants, can be measured as accurately as is practicable. This indeed has been done at Wimbledon, except in the field-firing competitions, and in those for individuals at moving or disappearing targets. Whatever may be the case with regard to the field-firing, we hope that the principle we have laid down will not be departed from at Bisley, so far as individual competitions are concerned. Rough and ready scoring at head and-shoulder targets will not answer, so far as the Queen's and other great volunteer competitions and the aggregates are concerned. In these each competitor is entitled to have the value of every one of his shots estimated as accurately as is possible.

“But we by no means say or think that on this account there should be no ‘new departure’ on the new ground, or that the old rule of using standing targets for the great individual competitions should be adhered to. In fact, we believe that now that we have the breech-loading, and some day shall have magazine rifles, it is of the utmost importance that rapidity in shooting should not only be encouraged but should be made compulsory. For a long time the military authorities evinced the utmost aversion to the introduction of the element of rapidity into rifle competitions, and after a short time it was tabooed at Wimbledon, until it was practically revived in the Mullens and Brinsmead contests, and at least in one individual competition; but so far as the last was concerned, in a form which was not very satisfactory. The time, however, has now come, in our opinion, when every individual rifleman ought to be obliged to show that he can shoot quickly as well as accurately. And the opportunity for showing this can be most conveniently given by the use of moving and disappearing targets. Only it is of the most vital importance, as we have said before, that these moving and disappearing targets should be ordinary targets of the proper size for the

ranges, divided by rings, and by no means ‘figure’ or ‘head and shoulder’ targets, on which the relative value of shots cannot be ascertained. But assuming that the moving and disappearing targets are of the size, etc., of the present standing targets, we are prepared to say that it would be well that no other targets were used in volunteer and military competitions at Bisley, and that if this contention is considered as going too far, that at least one competition for the Queen's Prize and the Volunteer Aggregates should take place at moving or disappearing targets. We think that such an arrangement would be much better than that which is, according to our contemporaries, now proposed—viz., that no competitor should be allowed to take more than one minute for aiming after the target is clear. What is really wanted from the military rifleman is that at the short ranges he should be accustomed to align his sights as soon as he sees his object, and to fire without a moment's delay. This he will learn to do when he has to fire constantly at a disappearing target. The moving target appears to us to be of less value, though it certainly ought to be practised at. It would be well, we think, if at least one competition at disappearing targets, at a short range, and one at moving targets, were introduced into the Queen's Prize, or to the Volunteer Aggregates, at the next meeting of the N. R. A. But whatever is done, the principle that the value of each shot must be estimated as accurately as possible must not be neglected, and that cannot be done unless the ordinary targets are used.”

The educational statistics of the German Empire show that of 171,346 recruits entering the Army and Navy in 1888-89 there were 166,195 who had received their education in the German language, 4,117 educated in other idioms, and 1,036 illiterates.

### The Ontario Artillery Association.

The fifth annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association was held at Toronto on the 11th February, 1890, there being present Major F. King, the President, in the chair, Major W. McLean, D.F.B.; Major H. P. Van Wagner and Mr. P. M. Bankier, H.F.B.; Major G. B. Hood, 1st B.F.A.; Major J. H. Mead, Capt. J. P. Beaty, Mr. Wentworth Irving and Dr. J. E. Elliott, Toronto F.B.; Lt.-Col. J. Morn, 44th Batt., M.P.P.; W. N. Awrey, M.P.P.; Capt. W. Macdonald, late 1st B.F.A.; Mr. A. W. Dodd, late Major 28th Batt.; Mr. R. Myles, late T.F.B.; Mr. A. H. Malloch, late T.G.B.; Mr. F. T. Stockwell, late Q.O.C.H.; Mr. R. B. Johnson, late Q.O.R.; Mr. T. W. Jones, G. S. Cox; S. Beaty, L. Homfray Irving (Secretary), and others. The various reports were read and adopted.

#### THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

“The committee presents herewith its report for the past year, and congratulates the association upon having had another prosperous year.

“Cups as prizes for ‘General Efficiency,’ ‘Aggregate Scores’ and ‘Officers’ Firing’ have been purchased during the year and distributed to the winners.

“All the Field and Garrison Batteries in Ontario, including the Gentlemen Cadets, have again shown their confidence in the association by affiliating with it. The committee, as a proof of the growing interest in the association, begs to draw your attention to the increase of membership since 1886, when it was 33, to a membership of 63 in 1889. The prize list has grown from \$400 to \$1,000, including cups. The most satisfactory point, perhaps, is the fact that out of 42 artillery officers in the Province 36 are members.

“As the Dominion Association has altered its rules respecting Provincial Associations your attention is called to these changes in order that some arrangement may be proposed as to one of two plans under either of which one association must act as collecting agent for the other.

“The committee begs to suggest that steps should now to be taken to have the association become an incorporated body.

R. MYLES,  
Chairman.

Toronto, 10th February, 1890.”

The Treasurer's statement showed revenue last year of \$1,348.59, including \$176 in members' fees. The expenditure had been \$1,144.37, and the balance on hand was \$204.22. Cups to the value of \$586.73 were purchased.

#### THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary's report stated that the annual competitive practice was carried out this year at a land range near Kingston, all the affiliated field batteries sending detachments there with the exception of the Welland Battery, which fired over the Port Colborne range. The number of competitors per battery was reduced from 16 to 8. The average percentage of the field batteries firing shows an increase of 2 per cent. over 1888. The individual membership remains about the same.