

in, if not to manage such gatherings, when authorised, know nothing, officially, of the proposed meeting of volunteers at Perth, and it seems to us very singular that any gentleman holding a position in the Force should forget or ignore the first principle of duty. It is very unpleasant for us at any time to find fault, but, as this circumstance gives a prominent example of a system of action which is creeping into the volunteer army of Canada we take the opportunity it affords of pointing out to the officers the imprudence and danger of taking upon themselves to bring a large number of men together without authority from the proper officers. The precedent is a bad one to establish and may entail an amount of vexation and inconvenience to those who have undertaken it of which they little dream. If the gentleman who has inaugurated this movement had gone the right way to work we haven't the remotest doubt but he would not only have obtained the authority of the Assistant Adjutant General but also the active cooperation of the staff officers of the District, and Perth would, on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday, have enjoyed the cheering spectacle of a large parade of the local force. As it is at present we very much doubt but when the matter comes to the knowledge of the militia authorities there will be an explanation required, not the most agreeable thing in the world to one who has only been influenced by the best of motives. There is yet ample time to remedy the mistake and we hope it will be taken advantage of, for we would be very sorry to see the affair spoiled by an oversight which must have occurred through ignorance as we cannot account for it in any other way without laying blame upon those whom we are convinced are seeking to serve praiseworthy and patriotic object.

Since the above was put in type we have learned that application has been made to the staff officers for the requisite authority, but we let it stand as a reminder on this subject, at the present time, is not out of place.

SIR FRANCIS HINCKS, late Governor of Demerara, whose name bears even yet some significance to the ears of Canadians, has got himself into a very absurd and undignified position through the straining of a point of etiquette. The story, as reported in the English papers is as follows:—When the successor to Sir Francis, Mr. Scott, arrived in the colony and took the oath of office, the functions of the former naturally ceased and he no longer occupied any more exalted position than that of a private citizen. Governor Scott, however, with a praiseworthy desire of evincing his gratitude for the assistance given him by his predecessor, in assuming this office, issued a proclamation ordering that the same honors should be paid to Sir Francis as if he were still Governor of the Colony. This very unwise pro-

ceeding was the cause of after complications which have seriously occupied the attention of the Board of Trade and aroused an amount of disputation altogether disproportionate to so unimportant a matter. The administration of Sir Francis Hincks had not been of the most satisfactory nature, and as party politics run very high in that little colony and naturally partake largely of personalities, the proclamation had the effect of placing him, and apparently without his being conscious of the fact, in a false position, besides giving his opponents an opportunity of averring that his character needed official propping-up. The time having arrived, he took his departure in the "St. Kilda," a merchant ship, for England, with all the formalities that usually attend the embarkation of an actual Governor. A guard of honor attended him, a salute was fired, and the Union Jack was hoisted at the foremast. All this passed off merrily enough, the "St. Kilda" put to sea, but was not a great many miles out when she came across the "Barracouta" with Major General Ainslie on Board, the strict notions of that gallant officer were greatly shocked at the assumption of a non official personage, and the Captain of the "St. Kilda" was promptly ordered to haul down the Union Jack. That, however, he refused to do, alleging that he was still within the jurisdiction of Governor Scott, who had ordered him to pay the same honors to Sir Francis as if he were still Governor. So the "St. Kilda" went her way rejoicing under the triumphant bunting. Major General Ainslie duly reported the matter to head quarters, and the Captain of the "St. Kilda," is liable to a heavy fine for flying the Union Jack when there was no one aboard his ship entitled to the distinction. The ridiculous part of the squabble is contained in the absurdly false position in which Sir Francis placed himself by accepting an honor which he must have known could only render him obnoxious to insult. The conventionalities of Her Majesty's service are not lightly to be ignored, and the affair may serve as a warning to presuming civilians in the future.

THE Council of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association met at Ottawa last Tuesday. The President Hon. Col. Botsford in the chair, Lt. Col. Stewart, Secretary and the following gentlemen were present:

Lt. Col. Brunel,
 " " Masson, M. P.
 " " Hon. J. Robinson,
 " " Osborne Smith,
 " " Fairbanks,
 " " Wm. Morris Esq.
 " " Blanchet, M.P.
 " " Higginson,
 " " Atchetley, D.A.G.
 " " McPherson,
 " " Hon. J. Locke,
 " " Captain Stephens M.P.
 " " McClenaghan.

The Secretary's report shows a balance in hand of over \$1,000.

The McDougall challenge cup presented to the Association Mrs. McDougall, wife of the Adjutant General, and the \$800 Plato 1st prize in the Provincial Match, won by the Province of Quebec at the Laprairie meeting, have arrived from England and are splendid pieces of workmanship.

We are glad to see the affairs of the Association in such a flourishing condition, and hope the next meeting will be better managed than the last. It was hardly to be expected that this association should leap, like Minerva, into full-grown life and vigor, but, considering the large field in which it had to work, and the amount of personal experience which it had at command, it is a little strange that it did not, with the aid of government, do better at its first great meeting. We are not inclined to be captious, but most desirous of aiding and encouraging, and anything we may have said was dictated solely by the best wishes for the success of the Association, and, by pointing out where they failed in the past, to strive to obviate the difficulties of the future. The great mistake was in not having *working men*, that is men of experience and *vim* appointed to the Council, some there were and to them we are everlastingly indebted for preserving us from a disgraceful failure. We were glad to see at the meetings last week gentlemen whose names have been identified with the Volunteer movement for many years, and we are thoroughly convinced that they will do all in their power to insure success at the next meeting. On Wednesday the regular annual meeting of the Association was held in the western block of the Parliament buildings; between fifty and sixty gentlemen were present. The Hon. Col. Botsford, President in the chair. After the Report of the Council had been read by the Secretary and adopted by the meeting, the President announced that His Excellency the Governor General had accepted the position of Patron of the Association, and that he had sent to England for several cups to be competed for by the militia and volunteers of the Dominion, and further that he would take great pleasure in aiding the object of the Association by every means in his power. J. J. Mason, Esq., who represented the Victoria Rifle Club of Hamilton, O., submitted certain resolutions in amendment to the Rules of the Association, and moved that they be adopted, but after a lively discussion they got the twelvemonths hoist and are to be brought up at the next annual meeting. There is not the slightest doubt but the constitution requires remodelling and we are sorry that Mr. Mason's motion was lost as it would, if accepted, do much to put the organization in a more practical shape than it has attained at yet. The meeting next proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year which resulted as follows: