

ing of prizes to drivers; an increase in the ammunition allowance; to permit of officers competing, and a more liberal annual grant is asked for. The council deplore that so few junior officers are members of the association. It will be noticed that Col. Gzowski has generously offered a prize to the association. Lieut.-Col. Gray having declined renomination, has been succeeded in the office of president by Capt. W. B. McMurrich, of the Toronto garrison artillery.

SOME of the Toronto militiamen, according to the daily papers, are about to hold a public meeting and organize for the purpose of wielding political influence to secure redress of grievances of which they complain. Of course as private citizens these gentlemen are perfectly at liberty to take what political action they please. As militiamen, however, they cannot act as proposed with directly contravening the Regulations and Orders governing them. Section 173 reads as follows: "Officers, non-commissioned officers and men are forbidden to institute or take part in any meetings, demonstrations or processions for party or political purposes, in barracks, quarters, camp or elsewhere."

WE see by the local press that a funeral march has been dedicated to the commanding officer of the Foot Guards; this is rather rough on Colonel Macpherson so soon after taking command, and we sincerely hope that no sinister suggestion is veiled under the implied compliment.

A COMMUNICATION dealing with the adjutancy question, and touching upon our remarks on this subject in our last issue, has had to be held over this week.

#### Personal.

When Capt. Constantine was appointed to the Mounted Police we spoke of his valuable services, and we are now glad to find that the authorities have shown their appreciation of them by allowing him to retain his comparatively recently acquired rank of captain. He is so good an officer and so thorough a soldier that the country alone is the gainer by this action.

The record of Arthur Hamilton, who has just joined the Royal School of Artillery at Kingston, is alike glorious and interesting. A native of Surrey, in 1876, when but fourteen years old, he enlisted in the 9th Lancers as a trumpeter. During the Afghan war he was picked out by General Roberts as his trumpeter and accompanied the general on the march from Peshaur to Candahar, a distance of three hundred miles. There were numerous conflicts all along the line of march, but at the gates of Candahar furious battles were fought, which lasted for two and a half days. At the expiration of that time, the British not only secured a footing, but had conquered the city. This was in 1879 and 1880. In one of the conflicts in front of Candahar, Lieut. Patterson, of the 9th Lancers, fell off his horse badly wounded. Hamilton, among others, saw the officer fall; but the trumpeter was the only one that went to his assistance. When the rescuer got near enough, he dismounted and assisted the wounded officer to mount. As soon as the officer was safely seated, the animal started at full speed for the British camp. This left Hamilton alone, and on foot. When the Afghans observed him, several hundreds rushed down upon the trumpeter. Taking to his heels, he soon got ahead of the main body; but the advance guard was nearing him. Suddenly wheeling around, he faced his opponents, sent one to their long home, seized one of their horses, mounted and rode to the woods, where he remained three days on two cakes, when he joined reinforcements on their way to Cabul. He served through the whole campaign, and, after the Cabul affair, carried despatches between Peshaur and Campbellpore. These were secreted in a "Guttrie" coat which he wore, and his instructions were to hand over the coat to the officer in command. Lord William Beresford carried the despatches with Hamilton. He and the trumpeter, before the walls of Cabul spiked eighteen guns, and, at the last one, they were observed by the Afghan sentries. Like a shot a number were upon the two men. They showed fight and repulsed the enemy, who had several killed and wounded. Later, Hamilton went to England and enlisted in the 1st Royal Dragoons and, after three months' service he entered the 4th Dragoons and went to Egypt where he took part in the battles of El Teb, Kassassin and Tel el Kebir. At the latter place his saddle slipped, and although a fine horseman, he was thrown to the ground. One foot however, was caught in the stirrup and he was being dragged to certain death when a comrade named Wat-

son, taking in the situation, shot the animal dead. Afterwards Hamilton went to Canterbury, Eng., from which place he was ordered to the camel corps in Egypt as a rough rider. Subsequently he went to Woolwich as riding instructor to the Royal artillery cadets. At Dublin, during the riots on Sackville street in which several policemen were killed, he had his helmet smashed in by a brick. At Aldershot Hamilton was one of the trainers of horses for military service, and in the tent-pegging competition he secured first prize over all England. Hamilton has been awarded the Afghan medal, the Candahar star, the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's star, besides the Victoria Cross, won for saving Lieut. Patterson's life. This record for a man of twenty-four, is something wonderful and Gunner Hamilton is the first man in the Canadian militia to wear the coveted decoration.

#### Annual Meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association.

THE annual meeting of the Ontario artillery association was held in Toronto on Jan. 13th, in the Rossin house parlor, the president, Lieut.-Col. Gray, in the chair. There were also present:—Col. Gzowski, Toronto; Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, Guelph; Lieut.-Col. McKenzie, Gananoque; Lieut.-Col. H. P. Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B.; Lieut.-Col. J. Hogg, Collingwood G. B.; Major Nicoll, Guelph; Major McLean, Durham; Major King, Welland; Major Hood, Guelph; Capt. W. B. McMurrich, Capt. W. McDonald, Capt. J. H. Mead, Lieut. L. H. Irving, Lieut. A. H. Malloch, Toronto; Capt. Hendrie, Hamilton; Capt. Davidson, Guelph; Lieut. Clendenning, Welland, and others.

#### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The president read the annual report of the council as follows:—

The council of the association presents herewith the report for the year 1886 of the executive committee on the subject of "artillery ranges," of the secretary on the working of the association and of the treasurer, with the accounts duly audited.

Affiliation.—Nine field and three garrison batteries have affiliated with this association during the past year. Next year, owing to certain restrictions as to the training, the number of garrison batteries will probably be decreased, in fact, only one of the three Ontario batteries will be called upon to perform their annual drill and gun practice.

Gun practice.—The shooting on the whole is far above the average. The average length of range which has been used does not probably exceed 1,450 yards, Port Hope 1,300 yards, Port Colborne 1,600 yards. The council is strongly of opinion that from 1,500 yards to 2,000 yards should be the range for field gun practice and 1,300 for S.B.O., and 2,000 for B.L.R. or M.L.R. The council begs to suggest for favorable consideration the question of obtaining some improved sighting arrangements and the paying of, say, \$10 to each commanding officer of a field battery for expenses while attending practice.

Ranges.—Although the executive committee have made a report on all likely ranges so far as known, they have omitted to recommend anyone of them as being suitable. Col. Cotton, assistant inspector of artillery, in his remarks on the Port Colborne range, says of it that in his "opinion it is the best artillery range in Canada." This council favors the concentration at one point of all Ontario batteries, for the purpose of performing the practice, and recommends Port Colborne as the best place. Your council would suggest for the consideration of the council of the Dominion artillery association whether it would not be more economical and beneficial in the end if garrison batteries using guns mounted on travelling carriages were permitted to fire at the same time and over the same range as field batteries. In common justice to them, if they are to compete against batteries firing over a first-class range, like Quebec, for instance, they should not be handicapped by using some chance range.

The prize list during the past year was a most liberal one. The council would suggest whether it is a question of good policy in offering prizes for voluntary drills, so few batteries competing, and of not offering more encouragement to drivers; heretofore shooting and efficiency prizes have been the great object aimed at. An immobile field battery is useless. A prize might be offered for judging distances, which is a most important thing and should be encouraged. The council would also suggest to the parent association the feasibility of its prize list, conditions, etc., being published at an early day in the year. That the attention of the Dominion association should also be called to the fact that this association are not in favor of the present method of competing for the Gzowski cup, and would recommend that such change should be made as will enable the object aimed at to be more fully realized.

The council would recommend most strongly, and of being of urgent importance to the interest of the artillery force generally:—

1. The concentration of all batteries as above suggested.
2. An increased number of rounds of ammunition to enable officers to compete.
3. A liberal increase of the annual grant to the Dominion artillery association. It is apparent to every militiaman that the Dominion with its small grant, aided by public generosity, has done much to increase the efficiency of the militia artillery.
4. The establishment of the competitions for officers firing at moving objects.
5. A more liberal allowance of clothing. Nothing is more trying to clothing than gun drill, grooming horses, &c.

In establishing this association success was partially ensured at the beginning by a generous grant from the Ontario government, but the council expects that every officer who takes a proper interest and pride in his battery should be a member of this association; by united action and help alone can the association ensure the further success of both Dominion and Ontario associations. With regard to this the council regrets, but it is nevertheless a fact, that so few junior officers are members; the seniors are working for what really the now juniors will most benefit by, and they candidly say, and with a right, that they look to them for support, both morally and financially.

Col. Gray concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Col. Gzowski, in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report, suggested one or two verbal alterations. He said he was desirous of offering a prize of \$50 to the Ontario artillery association, and he would leave it to the executive committee to suggest on what basis it should be contested.