

In the case of batteries brigaded together material for shifting ordnance will only be supplied in the proportion of one set for three batteries.

In carrying out the annual practice competition, officers in command may advise the competitors as to the length of fuze, elevation, deflection, etc., in fact give any directions that may be deduced from observation at the battery,—such as could be made in actual war. They must not, however, look over or correct the laying of the gun, or bore the fuze.

No communications to be allowed between the range and the battery—except that the first two trials shots may be signalled; three other trial shots may be fired but not by competitors, nor the results signalled.

It was moved by Capt. McCrae, and seconded, that a Committee be appointed to enquire into the subject of improving the sights for rifled guns.—Carried.

The following officers were appointed—Lt. Col. T. B. Strange, I. of A.; Lt. Col. D. T. Irwin, I. of A.; Lt. Col. D. T. Fraser; Major Macdonald and Capt. McCrae.

It was decided at the suggestion of Lt. Col. Irwin to increase the money prizes for Field Batteries to the following amounts—1 @ \$15.00; 2 @ \$10.00, 3 @ \$5.00, 3 @ \$5.00, 4 @ \$4.00; 5 @ \$3.00; 10 @ \$2.00. Total, \$125.00.

Prizes to be in money or kind at option of winner.

That the individual prizes for garrison artillery be increased to the rate of \$5.00 per battery affiliating

The Chilean Gun Explosion.

Our readers have not long to wait for further proof of the soundness of our opinions regarding the guns which, backed by powerful interests, are being gradually pushed into Her Majesty's service, while worthy rivals do not even get a trial. We have now to draw attention to an explosion, the investigation of which will probably be directed with the utmost ingenuity towards making out the gun to be blameless. An article in a contemporary has already sounded the note, and given the key to the line of explanation likely to be adopted. We, however, predict further bursts with the certainty which bad construction, combined with attempts at producing great results, have entailed, and must again entail.

The burst gun, of which we gave an illustration elsewhere, was the sole armament of the Chilean steamer *Augamos*. It was an 8-inch breech-loader gun on the French system. It was constructed with a long steel tube, with wrought iron coils shrunk over it. These soft coils were therefore in a state of tension. The whole of the longitudinal strain was thrown on the steel tube by means of the French plug in the rear, and in fact, every preparation had been made from want of scientific knowledge to insure an explosion, in case of a hitch or accident in the bore of the gun. The whole piece was in a state of tension, with a tube inside it, which could not possibly bulge, and so ease the gun, but must fly if its limit of elasticity was exceeded. Fourteen of these dangerous weapons are, it is said in course of construction for our own Navy. It is, therefore, time to speak out, and not to calmly wait for the destruction of our officers and seamen under the most terrible of catastrophes—an explosion on boardship at sea. From the description in our contemporary we assert that the gun burst in front of the trunnions, the front part splashing, as seen by the captain of the ship, into the sea, while the breech was blown over board to the rear. The lieutenant in charge of the gun and the captain of the gun were smashed to pieces, and the gun crew scorched by the escaping powder flames, a distinct proof that the gun must have burst. We observe that *quoque* word of sympathy is mentioned for the unfortunate dead, a whole column is filled

with the explanation that it was indeed an excellent gun! This pleading is rather calculated to defeat its object. The questions the War Office and Admiralty must now consider are, whether, in view of such disasters, the gun of the *Dunlop* and *Augamos* type are fit for Her Majesty's service, and whether, considering that the Woolwich system and the

Armstrong system are practically one, the question of manufacturing guns by the unscientific method of shrinking soft coiled iron over hard and brittle steel tubes should be continued. It is said that the War Office will apply this year for £30,000 to be expended in preparing a place on the ramparts of Gibraltar for the four duplicates of the *Dunlop* gun, purchased by our Government at enormous cost. Members of Parliament will probably think this money might be laid out with more advantage in some other manner. We have mentioned the Admiralty order for fourteen guns on the *Augamos* system, we now protest that these weapons are not fit for our Navy, the authorities should pause in their action, and seriously consider the situation with the assistance of a carefully selected committee, ere they jeopardise the valuable lives of our officers and men, and spread a panic through the Fleet from some frightful, but not unforeseen calamity, such as shocked the nation when the gun burst on board H. M. S. *Thunderer*. We feel certain that a really good committee will hesitate to pronounce any system of gun construction fit for Her Majesty's service which cannot stand the two tests of double loading and of bursting shells in the bore of the guns. They are simple tests, and not unlikely to happen during the heat of an engagement.

—Recent remarks by Carlyle, as reported by the Rev. Dr. Cuyler:—"I would like to see America. You may talk about your democracy, or any other 'crncy, or any kind of political rubbish, but the secret of happiness in America is that ye have got a vast deal of land for a vast few people."

Dominion Rifle Association.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE CONTENTS OF THE OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association was held in the Railway Rooms, at noon on the 16th ult. Among the gentlemen present were Lt. Col. Botsford, Lt. Col. Bacon, Col. Powell, D.A.G., Lieut. MacNachtan, Lt. Col. Fraser, Captain Costin, Major H. Smith, Lt. Col. Macdonald, Capt. Balsbur, Capt. Scott, M.P., Lt. Col. Bergin, M.P., Lt. Col. Worsley, Major Macdonald, Lt. Col. Thomas Ross, Major Mackenzie, Gananoque, Major Daly, M.P., Lt. Col. Irwin, Capt. Perley, Lt. Col. Williams, M.P., Lt. Col. Strange, Hon. Mr. Caron, Hon. H. J. Macdonald, Hon. Mr. Girard, Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Thomas McKay, Royal, T. White, Jones, J. B. Plumb, M.P., Mr. J. Johnston, Halifax, Lt. Col. Stuart, Secretary, Mr. Currier, M.P., Mr. Newby, Capt. Casey, Lt. Col. A. Straubenzie, D.A.G., Lt. Col. Taylor, D.A.G., Major Domville, M.P., Major General Luard, H. Cameron, M.P.

His Excellency the Governor-General was also present, arriving just at the opening of the meeting.

The Hon. Senator Botsford occupied the chair. He regretted the absence of the President of the Association, and stated that the meeting was adjourned only. The business would be proceeded with as though held at the time originally prescribed.

The Secretary, Lt. Col. Stuart, read the minutes of the last meeting, which were adopted.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Macdonald, seconded by MacNachtan, the annual report, as printed, was accepted as read.

The Chairman stated that he would not go into the contents of the report, leaving that for the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The financial statement showed a small surplus, which was satisfactory. He moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that the last meeting of the Association was a most successful one, everything being well carried out. The object of the Association was to encourage marksmanship amongst the militiamen of Canada. He regretted that amongst the competitors of last season