

The Association was launched under favorable auspices. His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, Governor General, being the first Patron, with their Honors the Lieut-Governors of Provinces as Vice-Patrons; Major General Selby Smyth, Comdg. the Militia, President of the Association; and Lt.-Colonel T. Bland Strange, President of the Council.

The object for which it was formed was announced to be the development of gunnery skill and the dissemination of Artillery knowledge throughout the Dominion of Canada. Towards the accomplishment of this end it has steadily persevered, and with such a measure of success as fairly entitles it to a place amongst the recognized institutions established in connection with the Militia.

The annual grant from Government, the affiliation fees of the different units, and the subscriptions of the individual officers, have enabled the association to meet the necessarily limited expenditure. With reference to the Government Grant, it may be safely asserted that no money has ever been paid by it for which a better return has been received. The whole amount is expended for purely Militia purposes.

Three teams proceeded to England, under the auspices of the Association, to compete with the members of the National Artillery Association of Great Britain at Shoeburyness.

The sending of the first team in 1881 was due to the liberality and exertions of Lt.-Colonel W. R. Oswald, his efforts being supported by the Hon. Sir A. P. Caron, then Minister of Militia, who obtained a vote of two thousand dollars from the Government and Parliament for the purpose. Much interest was taken in the movement by the then Governor General, His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, who obtained the necessary authority from the Imperial Government and the co-operation of the Council of the National Artillery Association. The courtesies extended to the members of the several teams, their reception and treatment during their stay in England by the members of the National Artillery Association far exceeded expectation.

The Commandants of the respective teams were:—

- 1881—Lt.-Colonel W. R. Oswald, Comdg. Montreal Bde. G. A.
- 1883— " A. H. Macdonald, Comdg. 1st Bde. Fd. Art.
- 1886— " J. R. Armstrong, Comdg. N. B. Bde., G. A.

The Council of the Association have been unable to continue sending teams even at extended intervals, owing to the difficulty of procuring the necessary funds—a fact to be regretted, for not only the Association, but the country generally, benefitted by the presence of the team in England. The following extract from the *Volunteer Gazette* will convey an idea of the impression produced by the presence of the last team which represented Canada:—