

would follow the good example thus kindly set. We have never thought that it was a wise policy for nations in times of peace to exhaust themselves in preparation for war, and having all the expenditure of actual hostilities, except the mere slaughter, without any of their excitement. The nations of Europe have been, for the last fifty years and more, following this suicidal policy, with what results every one knows. It is not the mere army in the field that forms a nation's strength, but the free, prosperous, and vigorous people that is behind the army. In every hard and death struggle that mighty popular reserve will always mark the character and extent of the national strength. It is long since an Indian potentate said that it was not what he saw of England's power that he feared, that it was what he did not see. What Britain and other free nations have to fear from large hireling armies is the first dash after hostilities have been declared. To guard against that, a certain amount of military force and defensive fortifications are necessary. This is true even of Canada, with a friendly and a kindred people on the other side of the lines. Do people tell us that there never will be war between two such nations as Great Britain and the United States? We sincerely hope and believe there never will. But we don't feel it to be wise even in times so propitious as the present to strip ourselves of every defence. We all wish to keep up our Militia in a state of efficiency. If so, it would seem to follow, as a matter of course, that we must keep our fortifications as well in the same condition. It is but a short time since the best available military skill devised these fortifications, and for what purpose? Not to defend particular localities, but to afford our native and auxiliary soldiery favourable strategic points at which to make a stand with some hope of success. We think those who devised these means of defence were inclined to underrate the courage and resources of Canadians when they said that Ontario would have to be given up in case of invasion, without striking a blow. Still, it is as well to have the benefit of the best skill; and when lines of defence against possible disasters have been formed not ten years ago, it would be the silliest of all infatuations to allow them to go to ruin under the fond persuasion that the time of war was for ever past, and that what eight years ago was a stern reality will never be so again till the world's end. Our voice has never been for war; but we are as little enamoured by the Utopian delusion of "Peace at any price." No defence, it has often been said, is our best defence. The fallacy and falsehood of such a statement are manifest enough. We need not turn our country into an entrenched camp; but with such an extent of frontier, and with such elements as we saw so lately on the other side actively fermenting in the shape of Fenianism, we cannot afford to fold our hands and say to all who choose—"Strike and welcome." To exhaust our resources in vain attempts at gigantic army-making or in building huge and unyielding fortifications would be folly in the extreme; but it would be a folly even more transparent, and quite as culpable, to take it for granted that nations had now become too prudent and too peaceful ever again to seek a quarrel with each other, so that any arrangement against aggression would be an impertinence, since the possibility of such aggression had for ever passed away.—*Toronto Globe* 29th April.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

PROGRAMME OF THE OPENING MATCHES AT THE CREEDMOOR RANGE.

The Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association held a meeting yesterday afternoon at the office of H. A. Gildersleeve, in the Bennett Building. Colonel Church presided. Colonel Gildersleeve acting as secretary. Among those present were Generals McMahon, Shaler, Woodward, and Molineux; Colonels Story, Wingate, and Camp; Captain Casey and Major Smith. General McMahon reported a balance of \$300 in the treasury. He also reported that \$7,500 had been appropriated by the Legislature, and that \$5,000 was expected from the municipal authorities in a short time. Letters were read from Major Laing on behalf of the Seventy-ninth Regiment, and Col. Emmons Clark, from the Seventh Regiment, asking what measures were necessary to acquire land for building purposes on the range at Creedmoor. The range Committee who had been considering that subject, reported a set of specifications and conditions under which such leases could be obtained. They require that all plans be submitted to them, and no use of liquors will be allowed at any time on the range; no other use than a shooting-lodge is to be made of the proposed houses. Colonel Wingate reported the following programme for opening matches of the Association for 1874 to take place at Creedmoor June 6, 1874:

MATCH FIRST.—DIRECTORS' MATCH.

Ten A. M.—Targets, 1—2; 200 yards; position, standing; any military rifle; five scoring and two sighting shots. Open to directors and honorary directors of National Rifle Association. Prize, gold badge presented by the Board of Directors, to be shot for annually and held by the winner during the year.

MATCH SECOND.—TURF, FIELD AND FARM BADGE.

Ten A. M.—Target, 3—10; open to members of National Rifle Association; weapon, any breech-loader within the rules; distance 200 yards; position, standing; five scoring and two sighting shots. First prize, Turf, Field and Farm badge, to be held subject to competition, and \$15 in money, presented by the Association; second prize, life membership in the National Rifle Association, which may be transferrable by the winner if desired, third prize, cash, \$15; fourth prize, cash, \$10; fifth prize, cash, \$5; sixth prize, cash, \$5.

MATCH THIRD.—MILITARY MATCH.

Eleven A. M.—Targets, 1—19, open to members of the National Rifle Association only; distance, 200 yards; weapon, any military rifle, five scoring and two sighting shots. First prize, gold badge, presented by National Rifle Association, value \$30; second prize, life membership in the National Rifle Association, transferrable if desired; third prize, cash, \$25; fourth prize, cash, \$10, fifth prize, cash, \$5; sixth prize, cash, \$5.

MATCH FOURTH.

Half past one P. M.—Targets, 1—19; open to members of the National Rifle Association only; distance 500 yards; weapon, any military rifle; seven scoring and two sighting shots. First prize, gold badge, presented by the Association, value, \$30; second prize, life membership in National Rifle Association, transferrable if so chosen, third prize, cash, \$15; fourth prize, cash, \$13; fifth prize, cash, \$5; sixth prize, cash \$5.

MATCH FIFTH.—REMINGTON DIAMOND BADGE.

Three P. M.—Targets, 1—20; open to members of the National Rifle Association; any rifle; distance, 500, 800, and 1,000 yards; the twenty making the highest score at 500 yards to compete at 300, and the eight highest at 800 to compete at 1,000 yards. First prize, the Remington diamond badge, to be held subject to competition, and \$10 cash; second prize, life membership in the National Rifle Association, transferrable; third prize, cash \$10; fourth prize, cash \$5; fifth prize, cash, \$5.

On motion of General Shaler the military officers named in the recent act for promoting rifle practice were admitted as ex-officio members of the Board. Letters suggesting changes in the mode of conducting matches were read from Major Partridge and Colonel Clark and referred to the range Committee. Badges were ordered for the President, officers, and those employed by the Association.—From the *N. Y. World* May 6th 1874.

INGERSOLL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Ingersoll Rifle Association, for the election of officers, &c., was held at McMurray's hotel on Friday evening. The following officers were elected for 1874:—President.—George Galloway. Treasurer.—R. A. Woodcock. Secretary.—R. Y. Ellis. Assistant Secretary.—M. B. Holcroft. The progress which the Association has made during the past years is best illustrated by the following statement, submitted by the Secretary at the meeting:—In 1870 two matches were held, the amount of prizes given being \$164 90. In 1871 four matches were held, the amount of prizes given \$293. In 1872 four matches were held, the amount of prizes given \$382.25, being an increase over the first year of \$343 35. The satisfactory manner in which these matches were conducted has ranked them among the best in the Province. The Association intend having a match on the 25th inst., when a number of prizes will be offered.—*Ingersoll Chronicle*.

A Paris correspondent of one of the London papers tells the following:—"A sad incident took place yesterday in the churchyard of Grosbois, a village outside Paris. The body of a child was about to be lowered into the grave when the supposed corpse was heard to groan. The mother pounced on the coffin and reached off the lid with a pair of scissors which she had in her pocket. 'Mon dieu' cried she, 'my son lives—ho's alive—he's saved!' And taking the poor little shrouded body in her arms, she bathed it with her tears and kisses. But her joy was brief. The child made a movement, and, uttering another feeble groan, threw back its head—and died. The mother gazed on the corpse with haggard eyes, and then clasped it to her breast with despair, and for a few moments her whole body was convulsed. Suddenly she fell to the ground as if struck by lightning, and, when recovered from her swoon, she had become insane."

An historical curiosity has just been placed in the museum of the Invalides, namely, the suit of armour which Charles VII presented to Joan of Arc, and which the heroine went to deposit at St. Denis after having been wounded under the walls of Paris. It is composed of steel plates, weighs about fifty pounds, and in every respect resembles the one in the Pierrefonds collection, which the Maid of Orleans wore at the moment when she fell into the power of the enemy in making a sortie from Compiègne.