

We have to thank the Secretary of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association for a copy of the report for 1873, by which it appears the affairs of the Institution are in a flourishing condition. At a meeting held in the Mechanics Institute, Montreal on 7th May last, the following officers were elected and business transacted:—

Minutes of the fifth annual meeting of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, held in Montreal, on the 7th May 1874.

Present—Lieutenant Colonels McEachern, McKay, Bacon, Hanson, Rogers, DeBellefeuille, King, Miller, Bethune, Fletcher, Worsley, and Martin; Dr. Coates; Major Aylmer, Sinton, Fraser and Amyrauld; Captains Johnson, Wall and Andrews.

In the absence of the President, Lieut. Colonel McEachern, C.M.G., Vice President took the Chair.

1. The Secretary read his Report, which was by motion adopted, and ordered to be printed.

2. The Treasurer read his statement, which had been audited and reported correct by the Auditors. The statement was received and ordered to be printed with the report.

3. The election of office bearers then took place. The following were elected:

To be Patron—Hon. René Elouard Caron, Lieutenant Governor.

To be President—Lieutenant Colonel C. J. Brydges, re-elected.

Vice Presidents—Andrew Allan, Esq., Lieutenant Colonel McEachern, C.M.G., Lieutenant Colonel Grant, Lieutenant Col. McKay, Lieutenant Colonel King, Lieut. Col. Hickson, Lieutenant Colonel Strange, Lieut. Colonel Alley, Robert Hamilton, Esq., Allan Gilmour, Esq., Captain Esdaile, F. Beckett, Esq.

Secretary—Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher, re-elected.

Treasurer—Major D. Torrence Fraser, re-elected.

Auditors—Lieutenant Colonel McEachern, Lieutenant Colonel Bacon, Lieutenant Col. Hanson.

Executive Officers—Lieut. Col. Worsley, Major Hon. M. Aylmer.

Executive Committee—The President, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive officers ex-officio, Lieutenant Colonels McKay, Bacon, Rogers, Bethune, D'Orsonnens, Lamontagne, Hickson, Bond, Hanson and Miller; Captains Esdaile, Morgan, Johnson and Thomas.

Surgeon—Dr. Coates, 51st Batt.

COMMITTEE TO COLLECT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE NEXT PRIZE LIST.

Lieutenant Colonel McKay, Lieutenant Colonel Bacon, Lieutenant Colonel Bond, J. Wm. Molson, Esq., Captain Esdaile, F. Beckett, Esquire, with the Treasurer and Executive Officers.

4. It was resolved that the Annual Matches be held on the 11th August and following days, and that the targets be the same as those used at Wimbledon this year.

5. A circular letter from the Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association was read, to the effect, that the selection of marksman for the Team for Wimbledon was to be made by the Presidents of the Provincial Associations, who were to send a list of 18 names each, with the scores made in 1873, the distances, dates and places of matches where the scores were made, also the rank, occupation and status of each competitor. This list is to be sent to the Secretary of the

D.O.R.A., not later than the 24th May. After some discussion, a motion was made and carried unanimously.

"The system of last year be adopted for the selection of Competitors for the Province of Quebec—viz, by a competition for that purpose, as the proposition of the Dominion Rifle Association for the selection of competitors for this year is considered impracticable; and that the Secretary of the D.C.R.A., be notified that such a competition will be held if a week's delay is given, say to the 30th May."

6. Moved by Lieutenant Colonel McKay, and second by Captain Johnson,

"That the sum of one hundred dollars be given to the Secretary for his services for the past year."—carried.

7. Votes of thanks were passed to the officers of the past year, and to Lieutenant Colonel McEachern for his able performance of the duties of Chairman.

The meeting then adjourned.

JOHN FLETCHER, Lieut.-Col.,

Secretary, P.Q.R.A.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A statement of the proceedings of the past year show that the work for which the Association was formed, was carried out efficiently and successfully. A competition was held at Point St. Charles for the selection of marksmen for the Team for Wimbledon, and the credit of the Province was fully maintained at Wimbledon by the men so selected.

Our Annual Prize meeting was held at Point St. Charles on the 12th August and following days. The total number of competitors was 1410, showing a decrease of 93 from 1872; but taking into account that there was one match less, the decrease does not show any real falling off in the actual number present at the meeting. The matches were all contested, and the firing better than at any former meeting. Thirteen Battalions entered for the Battalion Match, being one over the number in 1872. The first prize was won by the 1st Batt. G. T. Rifles, with a score of 197, being 21 over the score of the previous year. The Brydges Challenge Cup was won by Lieutenant Whitman of the 60th Batt. His Excellency the Governor General, Lord Dufferin offered two silver medals, which will be presented when received, to the highest aggregate scores made by the Snider and Small Bore Rifles. The winners are Sergeant Wynne, M.G.A., Snider, and Major Cotton, A Battery, small bore. Our Association having affiliated with the National Rifle Association, we have received their valuable silver medal, which will be competed for this year at our annual matches.

The following letter on the equipment of Field Artillery is of importance to our readers of that arm of the service, it has been copied from *Broad Arrow* of 25th June, and in connection with a lecture on breech loading and muzzle loading guns is the best practical essay we have seen on artillery for some time.

SIR.—The object of my previous letters has been to show the propriety of adopting for our light field batteries a system of drill, in which manœuvring with wagons shall be entirely omitted. It is incidentally been shown that at present the strength of de-

tachments to work these guns varies from six to nine men, and that no one method of carrying them is adhered to. When the wagon accompanies the gun, with the full detachment of nine men, six of them mount on the wagon and its limber; but the "Manual of Artillery Exercises," published last year, directs that "when the gun is not accompanied by its wagon," two men are carried on the axle tree seats, and three on the limber, making, with the sergeant, who is on horseback, a total of six. Nothing is laid down in this case as to how the rest of the detachment are to proceed. A quotation from the latest "Manual of Field Artillery Exercises," viz, that of 1861, shows an admission by authority that four men are sufficient to work the 12pounder Armstrong in action. But even supposing this to be intended for temporary occasion, we have since then introduced a still lighter gun, the muzzle loading rifled 9pounder, which is rapidly superseding the Armstrong 35batteries being armed with the former, while eleven only remain armed with the latter gun. If we compare the weight of trail in the newer guns with that of the old smooth bore guns they replace, it will perhaps be allowed that it is necessary to keep up detachments of nine men for the service of each in action, as this number was originally fixed for much heavier guns, and that six men being quite as many as are required to work the gun, while any above that number seriously interfere with its mobility, it would be better to parade all above that number as a reserve.

I shall briefly compare the weights of trail and of guns on their carriages, as it is in lifting the former when "limbering up" and "unlimbering," and in dragging the latter forward or backward into suitable positions that the severest strain is put upon the gunners' strength, three men being the number to lift the trail, and two more added to man the wheels when the gun has to be run forward or back. The weight of the trail of old smooth bore 24-pounder howitzer is 308lbs.; old smooth bore 9pounder gun, 259lbs.; 12pounder Armstrong, 215lbs.; 9pounder rifled muzzle-loader, 140lbs. Here we have in the new gun less than half the weight to lift that there is in the old howitzer, and each of the 17 smooth bore batteries still in India has two such howitzers.

The respective weights of the old and new guns, including their carriages, are—24pdr. howitzer, 27 cwt.; 9pounder smooth bore gun, 25½ cwt.; 12pounder Armstrong, 20 cwt.; 9pounder rifled gun, 19 cwt. The above speaks for itself.

When the gun is not accompanied by its wagon and the strength of detachments does not exceed five or six, two different modes of carrying the men, each of which has its advantages, appear to be contemplated by the authorities, for the off-centre and off-front horses have for some years been provided with saddles instead of harness pads, as if the intention were to mount two of the gunners on those horses. This arrangement seems now likely to be superseded by that of the axle tree seats. It seems, however, questionable whether a man on the off-centre horse, with two on gun limber, would not be almost better than three men crowded on the latter, and if he were chosen from among the drivers, it would obviate the necessity of putting any gunners through the riding school, which leads to complication in clothing accounts, &c., and is in other respects also inconvenient in a field battery. The duty of No. 6 in serving the gun in action is such as any driver could perform. At present the drivers' valises are, on the