

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Rifle shooting as a practice has a promising outlook for the coming season, judging from the unusually large attendance at the annual meeting of the British Columbia Rifle Association on evening of 13th inst., and the interesting nature of the business there brought up. The meeting was held in the Pioneer Hall. Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, M.P., the president, was in the chair, and, by invitation, Senator McInnes, and Capt. Townley, of the Westminster Battery, also took seats on the platform. Besides the local men there were present Messrs. J. C. Cornish and R. Wilson as a delegation from the New Westminster riflemen, and Mr. J. Wilson from Vancouver. In opening the proceedings Col. Prior congratulated the Association upon the large gathering, and referred to the presence of the representatives from the Mainland as a cause for special felicitation, the Provincial character of the institution being thus illustrated. He was glad to welcome Senator McInnes, the interest and co-operation of gentlemen of his high official position being of the utmost good to the Association.

Senator McInnes being called upon, made a brief speech, in which he said it was a source of pleasure to him to participate in the proceedings of the Rifle Association, and not only had he found rifle shooting a pleasant pastime, but he considered it also a pursuit well adapted to improve the health and happiness of the race. Added to this, he had never met a more agreeable lot of men than those who gathered on the rifle range.

The annual report of the Secretary, Capt. Fletcher, and Treasurer, Capt. Dorman, were read by those officers and adopted. The treasurer's report showed that the Provincial grant of \$500 made in consideration of sending a team to Ottawa, had been reduced to \$250 on account of no team having been sent.

Capt. Smallfield said that while in Montreal lately he had learned that the C.P.R. would probably have given the usual favorable rate last year had the application been made in time for the necessary consideration; and on this motion it was resolved that the President be requested to communicate at an early date with the C.P.R. to secure the rate for next summer. On motion of Col. Wolfenden, it was resolved to make application for a provincial grant, not for the team only, but rather towards the general fund.

A number of recommendations of the New Westminster riflemen were then submitted by Mr. Cornish and favorably discussed. It was resolved to communicate with General Laurie in order to secure his assent to a desired change in the conditions of the Laurie Bugle match to that the teams may be of five from any one battery or company, in place of ten from the whole militia of any of the cities. The recommendations as to the duration and regulation of the prize meeting were referred to the Council.

Senator McInnes introduced the subject of the Canadian Military Rifle League competitions, and asked if the use of the Goldstream range by any League teams which might be organized in Victoria would be permitted.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, of New Westminster, it was resolved to accord such permission.

The election council for the ensuing year then took place, resulting as follows:—

From Vancouver—J. Wilson and Dr. Bell-Irving.

From Westminster—J. G. Cornish and R. Wilson.

From Nanaimo—Capt. McGregor.

From Victoria—Lieut.-Col. Prior, Senator McInnes, Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, Capt. Smallfield, Lieut. Williams, Captain Fletcher, Capt. Dorman, J. D. Taylor, Capt. Quinlan and G. H. Morkill.

A vote of thanks to the Mainland representatives for their attendance was passed, and the meeting adjourned.

The newly-elected council had their first meeting on 16th inst, in the office of the secretary, Capt. Fletcher. The first and chief business was the election of officers for the current year. It was unanimously resolved to request His Honor Lieut.-Governor Dewdney to accept the honorary position of Patron of the Association, following the custom of his predecessors in office; and Hon. Theodore Davie, premier; Hon. J. H. Turner, minister of finance; Hon. Robert Beaven, mayor of Victoria; E. B. Cope, mayor of Vancouver; W. B. Townsend, mayor of New Westminster, and A. Haslam, mayor of Nanaimo, will be requested to continue as vice-patrons.

The presidency Lieut.-Col. Prior, M.P., requested to be relieved of, as owing so the pressure of his other public duties he found it very hard to spare the time necessary to do justice to the affairs of the association. Being pressed to reconsider the request, Col. Prior said he had quite made up his mind on the subject, and while as a member of the council his interest in the association would continue as heretofore, he wished to see some one else appointed president, and named Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, who had served as vice-president and was one of the oldest friends of the association.

Colonel Wolfenden suggested that Senator McInnes take the office, but the Senator declined on the ground that he was as yet only a novice. In compliance with the unanimous request of the meeting Col. Wolfenden then accepted the position. Senator McInnes and Capt. McGregor, of Nanaimo, were unanimously elected vice-presidents.

Secretary Fletcher also wished to resign his office, which he has held continuously since 1875, but this the council would not hear of, and he was unanimously re-elected. In order to lessen the secretary's work, the new office of assistant secretary was created, Mr. J. D. Taylor being appointed to that position. The Treasurer, Capt. Dorman, was unanimously re-elected, though, he too, suggested a change. Capt. Shears was re-elected auditor.

A range committee consisting of Capt. Smallfield, Lieut. Williams and Mr. J. D. Taylor, together with the secretary and treasurer, was appointed to take the necessary steps for putting the range in order for the next prize meeting. It is in contemplation to have the targets moved back so as to be more easily seen by the markers, and to have the firing points improved by covering with plank or otherwise.

Capt. Fletcher and Capt. Smallfield were appointed a finance committee, with a view to augmenting the prize fund through the assistance of the numerous well-wishers not now members of the association.

The cup presented by the Corporation of Victoria having been finally won at last prize meeting by Staff-Sergt. J. C. Newbury, this fact will be reported to the Corporation with a request for another trophy to be shot for under similar conditions.—*Colonist*.

LIEUT. J. E. HORSEY'S DEATH.

Shooting men all over the Dominion will be very sorry to hear of the death of Lieut. John E. Horsey, of Bowmanville, which occurred at his father's residence on Monday last. The deceased was in his 28th year, and was one of the best, most widely known, and most popular riflemen in Canada. He was a general favorite with everyone who had any acquaintance with him, and on the different trips he took to England with the Canadian rifle team he endeared himself alike to the members and officers of the team. In June last, when the Bisley team paraded in Montreal, it was easily seen by those who had not met him for some time that his days were numbered, and on the voyage over he was very ill. On arrival at Cambridge he tried to carry on his practice, but the recoil of the rifle was too much for his weakened lungs, so he was persuaded to give it up and take a week's rest before going into the matches at Bisley. When the team arrived at Bisley there was every appearance of a continued spell of bad weather so he thought it better to go to Winchester, where some of his relatives lived. There he was taken very sick and did not recover sufficiently to return to Canada with the other members of the team, who feared that he would never return home alive. He, however, got a little stronger, and came home early in September, and some of his friends hoped that he would be restored to health. He never got really well again, and of late he gradually weakened until Monday, when he passed away. He was buried on Thursday, at Bowmanville, in the family burial plot.—*Empire*.

Col. Montizambert, commander of "B" Battery, publishes a most forcible report of the trial of a tempered copper gun, of the invention of Blacksmith Allard, of Levis. The latter is making several articles, which will be exhibited at the World's Fair.