

DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

WHAT THEY DID AT THE ANNUAL MEETING—THE NEW MAJOR-GENERAL A FRIEND OF RIFLE SHOOTING—SAYS HE WILL DEVOTE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO MUSKETRY.

THE twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association was held in the Railways and Canals Committee Room, House of Commons, Ottawa, on Wednesday last, Lieut.-Col., the Hon. J. M. Gibson, president, in the chair, and amongst those present were His Excellency Lord Aberdeen, Capt. Sinclair, Governor-General's secretary; Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir Charles Tupper, Hon. Alphonse Desjardins, Minister of Militia; Col. Panet, Deputy Minister; Maj.-Gen. Gascoigne, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Bacon, secretary; Lieut.-Col. J. Macpherson, treasurer; Lieut.-Cols. J. Pennington Macpherson, Irwin, Hon. M. Aylmer, John Tilton, Hon. E. G. Prior, A.D.C.; H. R. Smith, A.D.C.; Fred Massey, George R. Starke, John Hood, Fred M. Cole, William White, Joshua Wright, J. H. Burland, C. J. Macdonald, Edwin C. Kaulbach, M.P.; Cotton, D.A.G.; Majors Sam Hughes, M.P.; J. J. Mason, J. M. Delamere, W. M. Blaiklock, E. B. Ibbotson, A. P. Sherwood, R. McLennan, M.P.; J. A. McGillivray, M.P.; James Sutherland, M.P.; E. B. Busted, J. Walsh, H. F. Perley; Capt. H. H. Gray, S. Maynard Rogers, J. B. MacLean, A. D. Cartwright, Hon. T. R. McInnes, British Columbia; Hon. Charles A. Boulton, Manitoba; Hon. L. H. Davies, M.P.; Hon. A. H. Gillmor, M.P.; Andrew Haslam, M.P.; James Somerville, M.P.; James N. Grieve, M.P.; Thomas Earle, M.P.; Fred W. Borden, M.P.; James McShane, M.P.; J. D. Hazen, M.P.

Lieut.-Col. Gibson, in opening the meeting, said: "We are glad to see so good an attendance of representatives of the association from different parts of the Dominion, and especially glad that we are honored with the presence of His Excellency the Governor-General, who has been in the habit of attending this meeting and showing the interest he entertains for the association and its operations. We are also honored to-day by the presence of Sir Charles Tupper (applause) who, I am sure, we all join in heartily welcoming to this meeting, and who, I have no doubt, has had opportunities at Bisley for forming a fair estimate of the importance of the operations of the Dominion Rifle Association. He is now at headquarters, and we hope to hear what he has to say to us. I have also pleasure in welcoming the new Minister of Militia. They come and go so rapidly we can hardly keep track of them, and no sooner have we become attached to one than we find his place taken by someone else. I am not well acquainted with the present Minister, but, in common with you all, I learned to form a high opinion of his

predecessor (applause) and it is no disparagement to say I regretted to hear he was called to another, though perhaps more important, department of the public service. The past year has been one of almost unprecedented success in the history of this association—in some respects at least. The reports will speak for themselves, and I will only allude to one or two features which justify us in feeling extremely well satisfied with the position we occupy to-day. The annual fall meeting of the association was probably the best it ever had. The various matches went off on time, better shooting was never made at any previous meeting, and on the whole the competitors never went home

IN A MORE CONTENTED FRAME of mind than from the meeting of 1895. It is a most difficult undertaking to hold a meeting of competitors from all over the Dominion, and find them all satisfied. There is, perhaps, no class in which there is a larger number of kickers than practical riflemen. (Laughter.) Even if they have no grievance they can find something to do duty for the time, and so it is a matter for congratulation that no grievances were found at the last meeting. You have before you the report of Major Markham, who commanded the team at Bisley. That shows a splendid record in a general way. The Kolapore match was not won by Canadians. It was shot in extremely rough weather, the strong element of chance entered into the conditions, and there was not so favorable an opportunity for a comparative test as we would have liked. The scores made, however, by the Canadian team were very considerable. They were distanced by not a very large number of points, and we have nothing to be ashamed of. But if she did not win that trophy Canada won a trophy possessed of greater significance than the Kolapore Cup; I refer to Her Majesty's Prize. (Applause.) I don't propose to do more than briefly state that without exception, without distinction, I may say among all classes in this Dominion the announcement that that great prize had been won by a Canadian was received with unbounded satisfaction. I might use a stronger term. The demonstrations which took place at many points in the Dominion showed that satisfaction is not the word to express the feeling of the people. These facts, while satisfactory to us as an association, go a long way to justify its continuance, and to justify the important aid and assistance which we are from year to year deriving from the Dominion Government in carrying on our operations. What has been accomplished by

the association in past years, and especially what we are enabled on the present occasion to present as the record of the association during last year, will render it unlikely and impossible that there should be anything like the intention or possibility of withdrawing that support which we have been receiving in the past. In alluding to the distinguished gentlemen present I should have

REFERRED TO THE NEW GENERAL

who has come among us (applause) and who we are glad to welcome. I express the feeling of militiamen generally when I state that on all hands there is not only a willingness but a strong disposition to accord to him the warmest welcome that is consistent on our part. He has important duties to fulfil; he has responsibilities which only he himself can appreciate, and most important among these is the re-arming of the forces. We have heard a good deal of the new rifle. We who are experienced shots could spend a week discussing that. However, the General will take the opportunity of telling us all he will feel at liberty to say about this most important matter. I beg to move the adoption of the reports."

Lieut.-Col. Massey, Montreal, seconded the motion, which was carried.

Maj.-Gen. Gascoigne, who was received with hearty applause, said: "A very pleasant duty has been given to me, but before I touch on that I think you would like to hear a few observations from me. Gentlemen, of course I have had a great deal to learn since I came here, and in my short sojourn I have had much to occupy my attention. These two association meetings coming so close together it is difficult for me to study them as I should. Yesterday the Artillery Association did me the honor of asking me to be present, and to-day I am here. But I have heard this much about this Rifle Association: that it is practically the Wimbledon or Bisley of Canada (Hear, hear), and, therefore, that you are not here only or entirely to encourage 'pot hunting' by the winning of prizes, but really to encourage better rifle shooting on the part of the military forces of Canada. As such I shall give it my very warmest support. Gentlemen, you heard something said of the re-arming of the militia. Well, I wish I was in a position to give you any real, definite information on that point, but I will say this, that you, as well as myself, have read an enormous deal in the newspapers about the new rifle. A great deal I have read I can contradict, as it is quite inaccurate. It seems to me always that where people write in the papers anonymously men seem to lose the modesty which attaches to the use of their names. I read a great number of statements of fact, not 'I think,' or 'I am of opinion,' but 'I know,' so-and-so. Many of these statements I know from the knowledge of experts to be altogether erroneous. One thing, also I wish to speak about here, be-