

sence from the meeting ; the former expressed a strong hope that the organization shall be maintained, but advocated reduced subscriptions.

Major General Gascoigne said it gave him infinite pleasure to be present at this meeting. He deferred further expression of his own thoughts and views until later, when he shall have heard members discuss freely the matters to be considered by the meeting. It would be of deep interest to him to listen to these discussions, and he hoped that views and opinions would be expressed with perfect freedom, etc.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President then read the following Address :

1. In view of the fact that a more or less general expression of doubt exists amongst the officers of the Permanent Corps, as to the advisability or otherwise, of continuing the organization known as the V.R.I. Club—and the Magazine published periodically in connection therewith, I have thought it advisable to offer the following observations for your consideration, and to invite your serious consideration as to the advantages which may be gained by co-operation and mutual discussion of the best means of increasing our efficiency and usefulness.

2. The original object of the first nucleus of the corps, as formed by the establishment of A. and B. Batteries in 1871, was for the purpose of providing for the care and protection of the military properties, stores, etc., taken over from the Imperial Government, and also for securing the establishment of schools of military instruction.

These schools were considered to have had such a successful result in the case of the Artillery of the Active Militia, that the principle of their establishment was followed, in 1883, by the organization of cavalry and infantry schools, consisting of permanently paid troops and companies.

3. Several different views have been taken by those in authority from time to time, as to the sphere of usefulness which these corps might be expected to fill, apart from their admitted functions as schools of instruction.

4. They appear to have been originally looked upon as forming nuclei for the formation of regiments of cavalry and battalions of infantry, and, in consequence, their organization and establishment was, with this end in view, based upon a regimental system.