

## THE FIRST CANADIAN COMMONS.

The Canadian House of Commons was duly opened on Wednesday last, after which the Hon. Mr. Cockburn was chosen Speaker of the same. His Excellency appointed the Hon. Mr. Cauchon Speaker of the Upper House. On Thursday His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate, and after the Commons had been summoned to attend, delivered the Speech from the Throne. Referring to the question of Defence, His Excellency said: "A measure would be laid before the House for the adoption of a well considered scheme of Militia Organization and Defence." In addressing the Commons he said: "The general organization and efficiency of the Volunteers and Militia have been greatly improved within the last year, and the whole Volunteer Force of Ontario and Quebec is already, by the liberality of the Imperial Government, armed with the breech-loading rifle."

Since the opening, the House has been occupied almost exclusively with matters of routine. The real business of the Session will commence in earnest during the present week. As we state elsewhere, in referring to the new Militia Bill, no action will be taken on the vital question of militia organization until the February Session. In the meantime we advise our Volunteer officers to qualify and secure their certificates as speedily as possible, so as to retain their rank in the Volunteer service, which, notwithstanding all that has been said or written to the contrary, will be the *elite* of the organization.

The ceremony of the opening was very grand, and was witnessed by an immense concourse of people from all sections of the Dominion. In the Senate Chamber on the second day the beauty and fashion of the country were well represented by the fair daughters of Canada, who, arrayed in gorgeous full dress befitting the occasion and their own beauty, offered a pleasing contrast to the ancient collective wisdom in whose presence they were assembled. The approaches to the Parliament buildings were lined by the Regular and Volunteer forces of the city, while the Ottawa Garrison Field Battery was drawn up on Major's Hill, under command of Capt. Forsyth, and fired the salutes customary on such occasions with remarkable precision. The Governor General on his entrance into the Senate Chamber was accompanied by a brilliant staff of officers. Besides his customary attendants we observed Gen. Sir Charles A. Windham, K.C.B., Major Gen. Stisted, C.B., Major General Russell, C.B., Colonel MacDougall, A.G.M., Lieut. Colonel Anderson, C.B., R.A., Lieut. Col. Brunel, 10th Royals, Toronto, Lieut. Col. Wily, C.S.R., Lieut. Col. Aumond, Ottawa, Major Thos. Ross, Ottawa G. A., Major Buller, P. C. O. Rifles, Lt. Col. D. M. Grant, Ottawa, Major G. H. Perry, Carleton, Capt. Smythe, 100th Regt., Capt. Parsons, Ottawa G. A., Lieut. Gemmill, Ottawa G. A., and many others.

The assembling of the first Parliament of the Dominion is an event fraught with vast consequences to the country; and we trust that the prayer which concludes His Excellency's speech may be realized, and that it will prove indeed, "A fresh starting point in the moral, political and material advancement of the people of Canada."

On the arrival at the Buildings of the Brigade of Garrison Artillery and previous to their extension for the purpose of lining the way, Col. Anderson, C.B., commanding the Royal Artillery in Toronto, addressed the officers and men, complimenting them on their fine and soldier-like appearance. He regretted very much that the Government had not seen fit to equip them with their proper weapon, but hoped that some action in the matter would immediately be taken. He also advised those who could afford the time to proceed to Toronto and receive instruction in the School of Gunnery now open there. His remarks were evidently received with much pleasure by the Artillerymen, who were immediately afterwards moved off to perform the duties for which they were detailed.

## THE MONTREAL VOLUNTEER GUIDES.

It is very unfortunate that this fine troop, which has always held a very high position in the Volunteer force, should, by the ill considered action of a few of its members, be subjected to the rebuke lately administered by the Adjutant General. Two non-commissioned officers and a trooper were publicly dismissed from the service for insubordination in presence of the District and Brigade staff at Montreal last week. In reference to the matter Colonel MacDougall says in a memorandum to the officer commanding the Troop:—

"So serious an instance of military insubordination has rarely come under the notice of the Adjutant General; and so long as he holds his present position he will not permit the introduction into any military force under his charge, of a practice which is entirely at variance with all the customs and traditions of the British army; one, moreover, which must be subversive of discipline wherever it may obtain."

"The power and authority of the officer commanding any military body under the British Crown is delegated by the Sovereign alone; and the Adjutant General would unhesitatingly recommend the removal from the Volunteer Militia list of any corps, rather than admit the principle that the commanding officer is, in any sense, the nominee or delegate of those under his command."

## THE LONDON RIFLE TOURNAMENT.

Rifle competition in connection with the volunteers must be making great progress in the western part of Ontario, to judge by the great success which has attended the tournament held in London last week, for a full original report of which we have made arrangements, and will give it in our next. The weather has been exceedingly fine throughout, and the manner in which the matches were conducted is highly creditable to all concerned.

## TORONTO RIFLE TOURNAMENT.

The above match has been further postponed until the 12th, in order to allow those Companies at the London Rifle Match on the 5th to attend. General Stisted gives a prize and others are being added. It will be the most attractive affair of the season.

## REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

For the week ending Saturday, 9th Nov., we have received as follows:

Kingston—Capt. D., \$2. Cornwall—Lieut. McC., \$2. Manningville, Q. Lieut. Colonel R. R., \$2. Montreal—Hon. J. R., \$2; J. M., \$1; W. McG., \$2; J. R., \$2. Ottawa—R. G., \$1; Sergt. J. L. \$1. Fitzroy—Capt. F., \$2.

## DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

On Saturday Lady Moxer distributed the prizes to the winners in the recent match of the Civil Service Rifle Regiment. Want of space compels us to hold over an account of the proceedings till next week.

## THE RIFLE MATCHES OF THE 22ND BATTALION.

—The annual matches of the Oxford Rifles commenced at Ingersoll on Tuesday last. Owing to the lack of ability on the part of a large portion of the competitors to reach the range before noon, firing did not commence at the hour intended. For the officers prize—first match—there were ninety-eight entries, and the balance of the first day was consumed, and the match was only half through when darkness set in. In the absence of Col. Richardson or any of the field officers, Capt. Wigham took charge of the firing party; Lieut. Crotty acting as Secretary. The arrangements for the tournament were as good as circumstances would permit; and although in the opening the shooting was not up to general expectation, the scores made by a number of competitors proved clearly enough that the 22nd is possessed of many excellent marksmen. The company match was taken by Capt. Nesbit's men. The most valuable prize was taken by Corp. Coad, of No. 7, Woodstock; Sergt. Major Frances, second; and P't. Pascoe, of No. 7, third. In the all comers match the first prize was taken by Capt. McLeneghan; the second by Asst.-Adjt. Climmer, the third by an amateur shot, who, with the other prize-men, used a Snider Enfield.

The match for lads under 20 years of age was not completed last night, but it is quite probable that it will be carried off by Capt. Chambers' company.

The highest score made in the all comers, at 400 and 600 yards, was 24, two shots at each range; and it is rather satisfactory to know that against a variety of fancy rifles, that in the hands of the Volunteers has proved the best.—*Woodstock Times*.

READY! AYE! READY!—The following return of the offensive and defensive weapons which France has at her command is not without interest:—9,173 bronze cannon, 2,774 cannon obusier, 3,210 bronze mortars, 3,921 bronze obusiers, 1,615 cast-iron cannon, 1,229 obusiers, 18,778,349 iron balls, 1,712,574 percussion guns, 10,263,986 kilogrammes of powder, 4,993,368 pomps. Needless to remark that every cannon is in order, every gun new, every grain of powder dry, and every bullet perfect.