

## RIFLE COMPETITION.

## DOMINION OF CANADA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual matches of this Association were commenced, at the Rideau Ranges, at noon on Tuesday the 15th inst. The day was fine, but a strong wind blowing right across the ranges, militated somewhat against the accuracy of aim. Precisely at 12 o'clock His Excellency the Governor General, The Countess of Dufferin, and Col. Fletcher drove on the ground and were received by a guard of honor of 100 men of the Governor General's Foot Guards, under the command of Captain Weatherley, Ensigns Aumond and Bato, the latter carrying the Queen's colors. As the Governor General and the Countess alighted from their carriage, the band of the Regiment struck up the National Anthem, and the guard presented arms.

Amongst those on the ground we noticed the Hon Alex. MacKenzie, Premier, Hon. A. G. Smith, Hon. T. Burpee, Col W. Powell, A. A. G., Col. Macpherson, Col. Brunel, Col. Stuart, Col. Jackson, D. A. G., Col. Bornand, Col. Ross, Col. Wylie, Col. Worsley, Col. Beers, Col. Aumond, Col. Forrest, Major Matice, Major White, Major Fraser, Major Ellison, Major Wickstead, Major Egleson, Capt. Boucherville, Capt. Tilton, Capt. Weatherly, &c. &c., as well as several leading gentlemen, and quite a large number of the fair sex which aided not a little in adding brilliancy to the scene.

After the reception was over their Excellencies marched to the butts, where a rifle had been previously sighted by Colonel Brunel and Major White, who arranged it for the windage, and on being pronounced ready, Lady Dufferin stepped forward and fired the first shot, at a range of 600 yards, making a bull's eye. The meeting was then declared duly opened, upon which three good lusty cheers were given for their Excellencies, and firing commenced in regular business-like style.

## THE LUNCH.

In the absence of Col. Gzowski, the President of the Association, the chair was taken by Colonel Walker Powell, A. A. G., on his right was seated His Excellency, Lord Dufferin, on his left Lady Dufferin, with Col. Fletcher and Hon. Mr. Mackenzie on either side. The Vice chairs were filled by Col. Macpherson and Col. Brunel. There was a handsome trophy of arms, bayonets, sabres, &c., arranged in the form of a star. Surmounting these were the Prince of Wales Feathers with the motto "Ich Dien," and above all the old Canadian militia colors.

The lunch was furnished by Mr. Kavanagh of the Queen's Hotel and was of the most *recherche* description to which amply justice was done. After lunch the Chairman in giving the toast of the "Governor General" said that His Excellency took a very lively interest in rifle shooting, being himself no mean marksman, he having taken part in rifle competitions at Wimbledon, between the "Lords" and "Commons." His Excellency had just returned from a trip to the West, where he had had an opportunity of seeing many of the representatives of the volunteer force of this country, an opportunity of which he had undoubtedly availed himself to a very large extent. The gallant chairman then proceeded to recite the objects of the Association, and some of the difficulties they had to overcome in bringing together to this centre representatives of all the Provinces of the Dominion. The plan was perhaps not without its faults, but it

appeared to him that it was the best adapted to the nature and situation of the country. His Excellency had on a late occasion honored the meeting of the Provisional Association of Ontario, at Toronto, with his presence, and now he was here to do similar honor to the representatives of the different provinces, who had assembled for the purpose of endeavouring to obtain a reputation in the use of the rifle. He (the chairman) was very glad that there were present several other gentlemen who, from their acquaintance with volunteer matters, both here and in other countries, were able to judge precisely as to the efficiency of our force. Some of them, he was happy to say, intended to take part in the matches. (Hear, hear.) The Association, among the many good results it brought about, had the effect of bringing together the best shots in the Dominion, of testing the efficiency of the marksmen who come from the different provinces, and thus exciting a healthy competition, not only among the men themselves, but between the different provinces they represented. He remarked that the Association had the privilege of selecting the team which represented Canada at Wimbledon. He was sorry to say that the team which had lately returned had not brought back with them any of the great prizes, but nevertheless, they had reflected great credit upon the Dominion; and when we considered that there were only twenty of them competing against the picked shots of the entire British Empire, we have great reason to be proud of them. (Cheers.) To select twenty men from a territory of 3,000 miles in breadth involved, as would be readily anticipated, no little amount of difficulty, especially when it was remembered that each province had to send its quota of representatives. It had also to be remembered that the climate of Ontario and Quebec was very dry, that of England was moist, and the difference affected the shooting capabilities of the men. There were other difficulties in the way of success, although perhaps of a less prominent character. It seemed to him that an Association of this kind was a perfect necessity, if an exact and high standard of efficiency was to be maintained. He repeated that there could be no doubt of the good effects of bringing the best marksmen of all the provinces together, inasmuch as it excited a keen desire for excellence and enabled the men to find their own level. He concluded by proposing the health of His Excellency the Governor General, which was received with cheers and responded to with great enthusiasm.

His Excellency, who was received with enthusiastic applause, in reply to the toast of his health, said, Colonel Powell, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have just been warned that I am firing at a long range target, and therefore I hope that those immediately about me will bear with me if I elevate my voice to a pitch which may be unpleasant to them. [Laughter.] Ladies and Gentlemen, in thanking you, as I do most heartily, for the kind reception you have given to my health, I am glad to take this opportunity of congratulating the Council and Members of the Dominion Association both on the success of their present meeting and on the satisfactory result of their past endeavors. [Applause.] Any Association which unites in a common effort and for a common object the component elements of the Dominion will always command my warmest sympathy and support (applause), and when these patriotic combinations are voluntary in their origin, self sustained in their growth and of practical benefit to Canada at large, supply

ing a general need, and the result of a universal impulse, they are a striking proof of the rapidity with which the recently disjointed Provinces of British North America have solidified into a compact nationality (applause); and, gentlemen, this fact receives additional point and emphasis when it is remembered that out of the bosom of your Association proceeds that band of marksmen who are charged with the responsible privilege and obligation of upholding the honor, reputation, and prowess of Canada in the lists of Wimbledon. Those lists are becoming every year more and more a world famed arena upon which the eyes of the various populations of the British Empire are concentrated with the most eager attention; and, depend upon it, gentlemen, it was a significant epoch in the history of that Empire, when the champions of Canada planted within that arena the Banner of the Dominion besides the standard of England, Ireland, and Scotland. (Great applause) Gentlemen, although of course your representatives have experienced those varying fortunes which are incident to all competitions of this nature, we have no reason to be dissatisfied with the result, for the Canadian team have already won honorable places in many hardly contested trials of skill with the best shots of Great Britain. (Applause.) I have had the most satisfactory letter upon this point from the Earl of Ducie, the Duke of Cambridge and the other authorities of the British Rifle Association, all of whom bear testimony not only to the good scores but also to the good conduct, gentlemanlike bearing, and fine soldierlike demeanor of the inmates of the Canadian Camp, which, under the splendid auspices of Colonel Gzowski, to whose energy, judgment, and liberality, this Association is already so much indebted, became a chief centre of attraction to every visitor at Wimbledon. (Great applause.) Indeed, we Canadians must, I think, have felt a thrill of generous satisfaction when we learnt on the one hand how nobly we were represented, and on the other, with what an extraordinary amount of interest, pride, and sympathy, the Canadian contingent was welcomed and cherished by their English brethren and fellow subjects. (Applause.) Gentlemen, in conclusion, allow me to exhort you with all the earnestness that I can command, to continue your efforts to promote excellence in rifle shooting. The science of war has come to consist in the art of keeping your enemy at arms' length, by the precision of the rifleman's aim. A nation of real marksmen would be almost unassailable. The rifle is the hereditary weapon of the Canadian settler, nor, if need be, will it fail to prove a sufficient bulwark to the Canadian Dominion. (Great applause.)

The Chairman said they had present with them the Premier of the Government of Canada, to whom, of course, they had to look for the sinews of war. (Hear hear and laughter.) He had much pleasure in proposing the health of the Premier of this country, the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie. [Applause.] The toast was enthusiastically responded to, and in reply the

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said:—Col Powell, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am not sure whether I am capable of firing at the long range just spoken of by His Excellency, but I shall do my best to make myself heard in the very few words I propose to address to you. You, Mr. Chairman, gave the toast of my health, because you thought you would have to look to me for the sinews of war [Hear hear.] I am glad, sir, to say, that every administrative in this country must