

the people of Canada is content to entrust what might be called its national insurance to an army of very moderate strength, supported at a very moderate cost, and at a very moderate sacrifice of the time and attention of those who form members of the different forces, and you naturally feel disposed to say that should a national emergency ever arise you would depend rather upon the public spirit and the self-denial and self-sacrifice of the people of the Dominion than upon any very large force which might be in existence and already organized at the time. Now, what I would venture to remind you of is this, that there is one thing which no amount of public effort or self-sacrifice can improvise upon the spur of the moment, and that is a good artillery force. (Applause.) I believe, moreover, that all the best military authorities are agreed upon this, that in modern warfare the importance of artillery tends to become greater with each new development of military science. Therefore it does seem to me, considering the position of things in the Dominion, that this Association is doing most excellent work in "endeavouring," I think these are the words used in the rules of the Association, "to disseminate a knowledge of artillery and gunnery skill throughout the Dominion." Well, General Luard, from what we have heard to-day and from what we have had an opportunity of reading in these papers I think we may assume that you have achieved a very considerable measure of success in your efforts. You have had a great many difficulties to overcome, but there seems to be this point which is greatly in your favour and upon which not only those who have watched these matters in the Dominion but those who have had an opportunity of seeing Canadian artillery at work at home are agreed, I mean that a Canadian artilleryman is, if I may be allowed to say so, almost by nature a ready made gunner. He has certain qualities which I believe are not present or at all events not in the same degree in the gunners of the old country and of other countries. There is about him, so I am assured, a readiness of hand and eye, a habit of overcoming physical difficulties, a promptitude of resource, all of which go to make him an easily trained and excellent artilleryman, and it is in part owing to the possession of these capabilities that your artillerymen have achieved such a signal measure of success at Shoeburyness. I regret, and I am sure many of us must regret, that, owing to the circumstances which have been stated, no Canadian team will visit Shoeburyness this year, but it is a case of husbanding our resources in view of a successful effort next year, and I have no doubt that, even if the conditions are altered, we shall, as Col. Macdonald has so well put it, be able to adapt ourselves to the altered circumstances, and that you will find the Canadian artillerymen holding their own in 1885 as well as they have in previous years. (Applause.) I do not think I will venture to add anything else, except this: I would gladly follow the example of my predecessor in placing the prizes which he has given at the disposal of the Council. (Applause.) The precise manner in which these prizes shall be appropriated is a matter with respect to which I will be gladly guided by your council and upon this I shall have an opportunity of conferring with you privately. With these few words I thank you very cordially for having admitted me to the office of patron, and I would assure you that if I can either by act or word promote the interests of the association it will be a sincere pleasure for me to do so.

Lt.-Col. Oswald proposed, and Lt.-Col. Montizambert seconded—"That the Marquis of Lorne, late His Excellency the Governor General, be accorded the thanks of the members