

## DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

### Transactions of the Annual Business Meeting held this Week.

Practical Address from the Governor-General—And a generous parting gift—  
The Quebec Cartridge Factory criticised—Range Accommodation  
discussed—General Business.

THE annual meeting of the men who direct the business affairs of the Dominion Rifle Association was held on Wednesday, 14th inst., in the railway committee room of the House of Commons. Owing to the snow blockade on the railways, the attendance of members from a distance was small, the Western men being altogether unrepresented. The president, Lieut.-Col. Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., occupied the chair, and on his right sat His Excellency the Governor-General. Amongst others present were Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, and his deputy, Col. Panet; Lieut.-Gen. Middleton; Major-Gen. Laurie, M.P.; Lieut.-Cols. O'Brien, M.P.; Denison, M.P.; Tyrwhitt, M.P.; Brosseau; Irwin, Inspector of Artillery; Lamontagne, D.A.G.; Lewis, B.-M.; H. Smith; Scoble; John Macpherson, Treasurer; Bacon, Secretary; Macdonald; Fraser; White; Ross, and Walker; Majors Prior, M.P.; Blaiklock, Bond, Tilton, Perley, Walsh, and Anderson; Capts. Hood, Newton, Sherwood, and Wright; Lieuts. Chambers and Gray; and besides these officers, Senator Girard, Mr. Ward, M.P., C. H. Tupper, M.P., Kenny, M.P., Adam Brown, M.P., E. D. Sutherland, J. W. de C. O'Grady, J. D. Taylor, and a few other members.

In presenting the annual report, the contents of which have already been published, the chairman referred with regret to the fact that this was the last meeting at which the association would have with them their generous patron Lord Lansdowne. He announced that, supplementing his handsome annual donation of \$500, His Excellency had just added a parting gift of \$250, which Col. Kirkpatrick suggested should be invested in a special trophy to be known as the Lansdowne cup, and to be competed for annually in a special match to be known as the Lansdowne match, so that the present and future rifleman might have reason to remember the liberal-hearted donor.

Major-Gen. Laurie seconded the motion to adopt the report, which was carried.

Sir Adolphe Caron moved a resolution of thanks to His Excellency for his generous gifts, and for his attendance at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Major Prior, M.P., and carried amidst applause, renewed when Lord Lansdowne rose to reply.

#### THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S REMARKS.

"It has been a great pleasure to me," he said, "to be officially connected during my residence in this country with the Dominion Rifle Association, and I am glad upon this, the last occasion when I am likely to take a part in the transaction of its business, to bear my emphatic testimony to its public usefulness." Having referred to the satisfactory report presented, he continued: "I am bound to say that I am struck, in reading the report, by the comparative smallness of the number of names enrolled in the list of your ordinary subscribers.

"An association like yours, fulfilling a great public object, has a right to expect the general support of all classes of your citizens, and considering the insignificant amount of the subscription invited, it certainly appears to me that you might reasonably expect a very much larger number of contributors than the few who now figure upon your list. My experience of these matters leads me to believe that support of this kind is generally not forthcoming unless those who are interested in the matter make up their minds to exert a certain amount of pressure—I would almost say persecution—upon their friends, in order to induce them to come forward, and I cannot help thinking that there is a good deal to be done in that direction."

After speaking of the work of the past year, including the successes at Wimbledon, His Excellency continued: "In regard to the general objects which the association should keep in view, I will not take upon myself to do more than emphasize what has been so often said by others in this connection, namely: that considering the conditions of military service in this country, and the position occupied by this association in relation to the Canadian militia, it should be our object not so much to educate and encourage a small number of crack shots and prize winners, as to diffuse efficiency in shooting as widely as possible throughout the whole militia force. That an effort in this direction is called for, must, I think, be obvious to anyone who has taken the trouble to read the report of Gen. Sir F. Middleton upon the militia for last year."

In conclusion, Lord Lansdowne expressed his regret that he would be unable to again meet with the association, but added that his successor

might be expected to approach its affairs with the advantage of having been himself a soldier, and of having held the high office of Secretary of State for War in England.

His Excellency's address throughout was practical and sensible, and was thoroughly appreciated by the riflemen.

Votes of thanks were then passed to the Minister of Militia, and to thy various contributors towards the price list.

#### THE QUEBEC CARTRIDGE FACTORY.

In replying, the Minister of Militia referred to a statement made by Major Bond concerning the Quebec cartridge factory, and expressed the hope that some member would bring up the subject in the House of Commons, so that an opportunity for investigation might be offered.

Major Bond had, at an early stage of the meeting, speaking on the motion to adopt the report, referred to the complaints made about the Snider ammunition, at the competitors meeting last summer. He quoted the statement there denied that the cartridges were filled by little boys and girls, and in connection with this denial he read from the report of evidence taken lately before the Labour Commission at Quebec. In this sworn testimony it appeared that one Geo. Robitaille had informed the commission that the machinery at the factory was defective and therefore good cartridges could not be made, and that also since the establishment of the factory no less than six children, twelve or thirteen years of age, had parts of their hands mutilated or destroyed through accidents with the machinery. Referring to the prevalent dissatisfaction with the working of this establishment he said he had come to the conclusion that the officer in charge there had impaired its efficiency by hedging himself about with theoretical tests, and refusing to accept advice from any quarter. Major Bond took this opportunity to appeal to the Minister of Militia, his Deputy, the General Commanding, the President of the Association, and the other Members of Parliament present, that if it continued to be necessary to use Snider cartridges these should be sound ones; and, further, that they should not be stained with the blood of children.

The matter had been disposed of then by a statement of the chairman that it was not one for the Association or the Council, but for the Government.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

His Excellency the Governor-General moved, the election of officers being in order, that Lieut.-Col. Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., be re-elected. In doing so, he paid the president a series of graceful compliments, and made a neat reference to the apparent intimate connection between the occupancy of the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons and the presidency of this association. The motion was seconded by Lieut.-Gen. Middleton and carried.

The other officers elected were all the same as last year, with the exception of a few changes in the Council. Lieut.-Col. Walker, of London, is added to the list for Ontario in place of Lt.-Col. White, Ottawa, who this year is a representative of Nova Scotia, having been chosen by the Provincial Association in place of Hon. J. S. D. Thompson. Capt. Crane, of the 63rd, replaces Lieut.-Col. Murray on the Nova Scotia list, and John A. Mara, M.P., of Kamloops, becomes one of the representatives of British Columbia in place of Dr. Chisholm, M.P.

A vote of thanks to Gen. Middleton having been proposed, that officer in replying, referred to the disposition lately shown in the Imperial service to pay less attention to marching past and saluting and more to teaching the men to fire. He had endeavoured to spread this idea in Canada, for he thought there was no use in teaching men things that no one but a born idiot would think of in war. He wished to make our soldier what he ought to be, a firing animal.

The chairman announced that the General had again made a donation of \$25 to the funds of the Association.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS.

The proceedings at executive committee meetings were, on motion and a vote being taken, ordered to be printed in future in the annual report.

An amendment to the constitution in accordance with notice given, providing for the representation of the North-West Territories on the Council, was adopted.

Major-General Laurie pressed for greater camping accommodation for the Nova Scotia contingent at the prize meetings. In this connection Mr. J. W. de C. O'Grady drew attention to the want of target accommodation, and claimed that the range would not permit of further enlargement.

In answer to Lieut.-Col. Scoble, it was stated by Lieut.-Col. White that no audience had taken place between representatives of the association and the Government with respect to the suggestion of the competitors meeting, that Martini rifles should be issued to the force in place of Sniders.