

Then we depress the lever to extract the new pattern solid-drawn cartridge case. But to our surprise, after all that has been said and written on this subject, we find it jam even worse than with our old friend of past years. Cannot this be rectified?

One more noticeable feature, and we have finished our introduction to the new weapon. By the side of the lock is attached a "quick loader, consisting of a tin case, filled (and slowly too) with half a dozen cartridges. These are pressed forward by a spring, and are supposed to come up one by one ready to be picked out and slipped into the chamber of the rifle. But almost as often as not there is a hitch about it, the spring has to be compressed and shaken in order to make the next cartridge come forward to hand. Surely this is bad! It would be almost quicker to put the hand to the pouch on the belt than to have to keep working at the spring to make the cartridges pay out properly; and if it does this with an ordinary trial with a new and clean instrument, what will happen when we have the thing dented, rusty and full of sand on service? And yet what great object is thus gained over a simple series of cartridge "pockets," like a bandolier fixed on the side of the rifle? Only this, the hand has an inch or so less to travel.

On now considering over our new acquisition, let us see what are the advantages gained over the older weapon. A flatter trajectory and greater range is, there can be no doubt, a great improvement. The smaller bore makes the ammunition a little lighter, which is a gain. The hand protector can just as easily be applied to any rifle. The same may be said of the improved backsight with adjustable wind gauge and the quick loader. The new bayonet and its attachment could be applied to the old rifle without any very serious alteration; and the minor improvements in the details of the action can hardly be considered of sufficient importance to warrant the issue of an entirely new arm, while, as already shown, it is heavier, has greater recoil, and is more complicated. So that, practically, the new rifle only presents the one advantage of greater muzzle velocity over the existing arm, and to gain this we have to go not only to the expense of arming all the troops, but to the confusion of learning and becoming accustomed to its use, and the issue of a totally different kind of ammunition. Meanwhile, two of the most serious faults of the present rifle, great recoil and bad extracting action, are to be as bad as, if not worse than, before. Yet in a few years' time there is every prospect of our continental neighbors being armed with repeating rifles, and we shall surely find ourselves bound to follow suit. So why not continue with our present rifles, adding such details as hand protectors, quick loaders, solid-drawn cartridge cases, and even new backsights, until some really good repeating rifle is invented?—*Broad Arrow.*

British Columbia R. A. Meeting.

THE programme for the annual prize meeting, to be held on the 17th inst., and following days, has just been received. The matches are to take place at New Westminster under D. R. A. rules, but only short Sniders are allowed except where otherwise specified.

"Opening Match."—Open to members; seven rounds; 500 yards; entrance 50c. First prize \$12.50, second \$10, third \$7.50, fourth \$5, fifth \$4, three of \$2.50.

"Nanaimo Corporation Prize."—Open to members; five rounds at 200 and 400 yards; entrance 50c. First prize, challenge cup presented by the mayor and council of Nanaimo, to be won twice in succession, and \$12.50, second \$7.50, third \$5, five of \$2.50.

"Lieut.-Governor's Challenge Cup."—Open to members of the active militia, and to officers retired retaining rank; seven rounds at 200, 500 and 600 yards; entrance 50c. First prize, challenge cup presented by His Honor Lieut.-Governor Cornwall, to be won twice in succession, and \$12.50, second \$7.50, third \$5, five of \$2.50.

"New Westminster Stakes."—Open as in No. 1; five rounds at 200 and 400 yards; entrance 50c. First prize, Occidental challenge cup presented by the late J. Howison, to be won twice, and \$12.50, second \$7.50, third \$5, five of \$2.50.

"Victoria Corporation Match."—Open as in No. 1.—Seven rounds at 200, 500 and 600 yards; entrance 50c.—First prize, challenge cup presented by the mayor and council of Victoria, to be won twice, and \$12.50, second \$7.50, four of \$5, five of \$2.50.

"Laurie Bugle Match"—To be competed for by teams of ten members of the active militia, selected respectively from Victoria and New Westminster; five rounds at 200, 400 and 600 yards; entrance \$2.50 each team. Winning team, each \$4. The locality winning this silver bugle, presented by Major-General Laurie, late D.A. G., shall hold a local competition amongst the several corps there established, of ten men from each corps, under the above conditions as to rifles, rounds and distances. The bugle to be held by the winning team for the year.

"Chapleau Challenge Cup."—Open to members; five rounds at 200, 400 and 600 yards, entrance 50c. First prize, challenge cup presented by Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Secretary of State, to be won twice, and \$12.50, second \$10, third \$7.50, fourth \$5, five of \$2.50.

"Association Stakes."—Open to members; ten rounds at 600 yards; Martini-Henry rifles; entrance 50c. First prize, silver cup presented by the officers of the militia at New Westminster and \$10, second \$8, third \$5, four of \$2.

"All Comers' Match."—Open to members; seven rounds at 200, 500 and 600 yards; any rifle; entrance 50c. First prize \$12.50, second \$10, third \$5, five of \$2.50.

"Consolation Match."—Open to members who have competed in not less than

three matches, and who have not won a prize to the value of \$5; seven rounds at 400 yards; entrance 50c. First prize \$10, second \$7.50, third \$5, three of \$2.50.

"Governor-General's Medals."—For the highest individual score at 500 and 600 yards in competitions Nos. 3, 5 and 9, silver medal presented by His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, Governor-General; for the second highest, H. E. bronze medal.

"Grand Aggregate Prizes."—For the highest individual aggregate score in all competitions, except Nos. 6, 8 and 10, gold badge of the British Columbia rifle association and silver medal of the Dominion of Canada rifle association; for second highest, silver badge of the British Columbia rifle association. In the aggregate for the Governor-General's medals the scores of those members only of the active militia who are reported by the commanding officer of their corps as efficient will be selected; efficiency to be understood as having been a bona fide member of the corps to which the competitor belongs previous to the 1st July, 1886, and as having performed the number of drills authorized by general order for 1885-86 or 1886-87.

The New Brunswick R. A. Prize Meeting.

THE programme this year, which we now publish, is substantially the same as that of last year. Sighting shots, however, have been abolished. The matches are to be held at Sussex on the 17th instant and following days:—

PRIZE LIST.

"Nursery and Maiden."—The cup presented by Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G., and \$110 added by the association. Open only to such efficient members of the active militia of New Brunswick as have not won a money prize larger than one of five dollars at any previous provincial or dominion competition. The maiden team prizes shall be open to teams of five previously named officers, non-commissioned officers or men from any corps in the province, who have not attended a previous competition of the provincial rifle association. Entrance fee per team \$1.50, individual 25c.; five shots at 400 and 500 yards. First team prize \$25, second \$15, third \$10; three prizes, value \$500. First individual prize cup and \$10, second \$8, third \$6, fourth \$5, two of \$4, three of \$3, seven of \$2; total 16 individual prizes, value \$60.

"All Comers."—Open to all comers; 7 shots at 500 yards; entrance fee 25c. First prize \$15, second \$10, two of \$7, three of \$5, three of \$4, four of \$3, six of \$2; total 20 prizes, value \$90.

"Domville."—The cup presented by Lieut.-Col. Domville, 8th cavalry, and \$100 added by the association. The cup restricted to bona fide residents of the province and to be held for the year by the winner. Open to all members and affiliated members. Entrance fee 25c.; seven shots at 500 and 600 yards. First prize, cup and \$15, second \$10, third \$8, fourth \$6, five of \$5, five of \$4, eight of \$2; total 22 prizes, value \$100.

"Prince of Wales."—The Prince of Wales' cup, medal and \$145. Open to efficient members of the active militia of New Brunswick, and to officers who have retired retaining rank. Team prizes to be competed for by five previously named officers, non-commissioned officers or men from any regiment of cavalry, field battery, brigade of artillery, and any battalion or independent company of the active militia. The names of the men composing the teams to be given to the secretary before the commencement of the competition. Entrance fee per team \$2.50, individual 25c.; seven shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards; position standing at 200; first team prize \$20, second \$15, third \$10; 3 team prizes, value \$45; first individual prize cup, medal and \$10, second \$12, third \$8, fourth \$7, four of \$5, four of \$4, five of \$3, six of \$2; total 23 individual prizes, value \$100.

"Provincial."—Cup presented by the Hon. David McLellan and \$102 added by the P.R.A. Hon. Mr. McLellan's prize is to be competed for at five consecutive meetings of the association and the winners in these five competitions will at the ensuing annual matches, shoot of the ownership. Open to all members and affiliated members. Entrance fee 25c.; 600 yards. First prize cup and \$15, second \$12, third \$10, two of \$7, three of \$5, four of \$4, ten of \$2; total 22 prizes, value \$102.

"Elder."—The challenge cup presented by the Honorable the late William Elder. Open to teams of eight members from each county association affiliating with the P.R.A. Those only eligible to shoot on a team who shall have been resident in the county which they represent for at least six months prior to the date of the match. The cup to be held during the year by the highest scorer in the winning team and to be returned to the secretary of the P.R.A. before the next annual matches. Entrance fee per team \$4; seven shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards. First prize cup and \$32, second \$24, third \$16; total 3 prizes, value \$72. Unless more than three teams compete the third prize will not be offered.

"Association."—The association challenge cup and \$200. Open to all members and affiliated members. Entrance fee 50c.; seven shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards. First prize cup and \$15, second \$10, third \$9, fourth \$8, fifth \$7, sixteen of \$5, nine of \$4, nine of \$3, four of \$2; total 43 prizes, value \$200.

"Maiden Aggregate."—Open to competitors who have never attended a previous meeting of the association. Prizes to be awarded to the highest aggregate scores in the "Nursery," "All comers," "Domville" and "Association" matches. First prize \$5, second \$4, three of \$2; 5 prizes, value \$15.

"Governor-General's Medals."—The silver and bronze medals presented by His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, Governor-General of Canada. Open to all members and affiliated members being residents of the province. The medals will be awarded to the competitors whose respective scores in the "All Comers" "Domville" and "Provincial" matches, together with the 500 and 600 yard scores in the "Association" match make up the highest aggregate.

"Grand Aggregate."—The silver medals of the National, Dominion and Provincial associations, and \$60 added by the Provincial rifle association. To be awarded to competitors whose respective scores in the "All Comers," "Domville," "Association" and "Provincial" matches, together with the 500 and 600 yard scores in the "Prince of Wales" match, make up the highest aggregates. Entrance fee 50c. All entries to be made before six o'clock, p.m., of the first day of the meeting. First prize N.R.A. medal and \$8, second D.R.A. medal and \$8, third P.R.A. medal and \$8, fourth \$6, six of \$5; total 10 prizes, value \$60.

"Snider" Extra Series.—Open to all. Competitors may enter as often as they wish on payment of the entrance fee for each entry. Highest score only to count. Entrance fee 25c.; 500 yards; seven rounds. First prize \$12, second \$10, third \$8, fourth \$7, fifth \$6, two of \$5, three of \$4, five of \$2; total 15 prizes, value \$75.