

THE WIMBLEDON REVIEW.

The Wimbledon meeting closes to-day with the customary distribution of prizes and the customary review and we suppose with the customary amount of dust and the customary amount of confusion. It is, indeed, want of order in those Volunteer gatherings that renders the force the laughing stock of the public. Our much-respected contemporary *Punch*, has this week raised his voice in condemnation of the abused jumble which annually recurs at Wimbledon, and is designated a review, and in a general order of his own (which has a *Punch* ring about it) has devised a scheme whereby Volunteers, police, cabs, omnibuses, ginger-beer vendors, and the general public, who have hitherto (to use an Americanism) "got mixed" in a very unmilitary manner, shall be marshalled in some sort of order, so that if the spectators will insist upon marching past the saluting post with the troops they shall have places assigned to them in a proper way. Of course we know our friend *Punch* is only satirical, and means to call attention to the farce of a review being held under the disadvantageous circumstances which exist at Wimbledon, and invites the conclusion either that order should be properly preserved or that the review should be discountenanced by the authorities altogether. But, unfortunately, there are difficulties in the way of either course being pursued. It has become a tradition of the War Office that Volunteers must be kept in good temper with the State, and, therefore, to put a stop to their annual Wimbledon show would be considered bad policy. On the other hand, the authorities are in the dilemma of incurring a responsibility without having sufficient means at their disposal to meet it. The Wimbledon meeting itself is held under the auspices of the National Rifle Association, and the War Office, beyond giving a formal sanction to the gathering—formal because unnecessary—has no voice in the proceedings. The review, however, is a military matter, and the War Office consequently is called in at the last moment to organize in an efficient manner a body of men who insist on regarding the field day as a breaking up fete after a fortnight's free and easy campaigning. Officers properly qualified are, it is true, appointed to command the Volunteers, and everything is done by the authorities to secure the men presenting a soldierly appearance. But, unfortunately, the circumstances are exceptional, and in the result Wimbledon reviews have not, from the Military point of view, proved to be successful. It is but fair, however, to the Force to point out that the failure is due more to the uncontrollable crowd who come to see than the want of discipline amongst the Volunteers who are there to be seen. A Saturday evening in July is the time of all others, at which London is free to go sightseeing and it is not surprising that the metropolis should empty itself into Wimbledon Common, when so popular an event as a Volunteer review is there to be seen. But the public come in their thousands, while the police force is only represented by a few hundreds, and a military contingent for keeping the ground is not there at all. The Volunteers at Wimbledon to be reviewed, and not to act as sentries, and consequently to employ them to keep back the crowd, would not be fair. More than this, indeed, it would not be desirable, as the most probable result would be to provoke collision between the mob and the Volunteers, and, therefore, even if a number of the men

themselves were willing to sacrifice their own pleasure for the convenience of their comrades, it should not be allowed. No doubt the best course would be to call in the assistance of the regulars but that the War Office naturally hesitates to sanction, as the summer drill sufficiently occupies the Army at the present time, and, moreover, the authorities are not prepared to sanction the expense of sending troops to Wimbledon to attempt to control an irrepresable mob.

It may be that the review which will be held this evening will prove an exception to the general rule, and that *Punch's* timely sarcasm will act as a warning to all concerned; but unless the spectators by consent agree to leave the field clear for the evolutions of the troops, and the troops on their part determine to look upon the review as an occasion for a display of their efficiency, we fear the old result will be obtained. The fact that the Volunteer movement has lost strength of late years cannot be refuted, and one cause of decline of its popularity is the ridicule of which it is made the subject. That amateur soldiers will get laughed at whether they deserve it or not, is very likely, but the Volunteers should on this account be only all the more careful not to lay themselves open to be made fun of. The Volunteers are a most valuable arm of the auxiliary forces, and it is to be hoped they may long continue so; but when they tempt the Fates when they publicly show themselves to be wanting in the commonest of military instincts.—*Broad Arrow.*

RIFLE COMPETITION.

GUARDS' RIFLE MATCH.

The third annual meeting of the Guards' Rifle Association was held on the Rideau Range, on Saturday, 26th inst., and carried to a successful termination before evening. The day was all that could be desired for good shooting, and, as will be seen by the scores of the winners, it required a little skill and steadiness to carry off the principal prizes. There were eight targets (four second class and four third class) kept going the whole day, and owing to the careful selection of his men by Sergt. Major Keating, there was no hitch in the scoring from first to last.

During the day the competitors were cheered by visits from their lady friends, whose presence inspired the men to extra endeavours to win praises as well as prizes. Amongst those present we noticed Major and Mrs Wicksteed, Major, Mrs. and Miss White, Captain and Miss Macpherson, Mr. and the Misses Wright, nearly all the officers of the regiment, in fact all of them who happened to be in town, and a host of civilian friends. We regretted to find on enquiry for the Colonel, whose absence we noticed, that he was summoned hurriedly away the previous day in consequence of the dangerous illness of a member of his family.

The following is the list of officers of the association for the current year, and the prize list, amounting to some \$320.

President, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Ross; Vice President, Major White; Committee, Capt. Tilton, Capt. Wertherly, Capt. Lee, Lieut. Patrick, Lieut. Todd, Ensign Dunlevie, Treasurer, Major Wicksteed. Secretary, Capt. Walsh.

MATCH NO. 1.

Association Match, open to all Members of the Guards Rifle Association,

1st prize, Silver Cup, Lieut Stewart...	\$30
2nd do	12
3rd do	8
4th do	6
5th do	\$4 each..... 12
6th do	
7th do	\$3 each..... 9
8th do	
9th do	
10th do	
Total.....	\$77

Rifle, Snider Enfield, Government issue, Range 200 yards; 5 rounds. Entrances free.

Pts.

1st Col. Sgt J Cairns No 6 Co.....	19
2nd Pte Gray, No 1 Co.....	18
3rd Capt Macpherson, No 2 Co.....	18
4th Pte Throop, No 1 Co.....	17
5th Corpl Clayton, No 1 Co.....	17
6th Sgt Sutherland, No 1 Co.....	17
7th Corpl Deslaurieres, No 1 Co.....	16
8th Pte A Cotton, No 1 Co.....	15
9th Corpl Readon, No 4 Co.....	15
10th Pte R B McEwan, No 3 Co.....	15

MATCH NO. 2.

Volunteer Match, open to all efficient Volunteers.

1st Prize, Cup Ensign Bate.....	\$12
2nd do	8
3rd do	6
4th do	5
5th do	4
6th do	3
7th do	2

Total.....\$40

Rifle, Snider Enfield, Government issue. Ranges 300 and 500 yards; 5 rounds at each. Entrance 25 cents.

Efficiency as in Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Matches.

Pts.

1st Lieut Harris O B G A.....	41
2nd Corpl Deslauriers, Guards.....	39
3rd Pte W Wait do.....	38
4th Pte K Graburn do.....	37
5th Capt Macpherson do.....	35
6th Col Sgt J Cairns do.....	34
7th Pte Symes do.....	34

MATCH NO. 3.

Regimental Match, open to all Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Governor General's Foot Guards.

1st Prize, Revolver, presented by Philip Grice, Esq., London.....	\$40
2nd do Lt.-Col. Ross's Medal and cash.....	\$10..... 20
3rd do Cup, Officers No. 1 Company... ..	12
4th do Cup, Mrs. White.....	10
5th do.....	8
6th do.....	7
7th do.....	5
8th do.....	4
9th do.....	3
10th do.....	2

Total.....\$111

Rifle, Snider Enfield, Ranges 200, 500, and 600 yards; 5 rounds at each. Entrance to Members, free; all others, 25 cents.

Pts.

1st Pte Throop, No 1 Co.....	58
2nd Pte Gray, No 1 Co.....	58
3rd Corpl Clayton, No 1 Co.....	58
4th Pte K Graburn, No 2 Co.....	51
5th Sergt Sutherland, No 1 Co.....	50
6th Pte John Heron, No 2 Co.....	48
7th Capt Macpherson, No 2 Co.....	48