

sight as possible, a better alignment is obtained, and consequently more excellent results follow. At the time of the Palma matches here, when the American team used the aperture sight and the British and other teams used the open sight and they were badly beaten, it was subsequently urged by some British riflemen that the sighting of the aperture sight was very slow. Those of us who had used it felt that this was untrue, and experience and observation since have proven that the aperture sight is the more rapid.

On that occasion the American fired much more rapidly, practically two shots for other teams one. This caused them to be finished earlier and thus avoid a very tricky wind which threw the other teams off the bullseye.

I shall quote to the House the view of Major Richardson, one of the best known shots in England, who has for many years taken an active interest in the Bisley matches, and who is an earnest advocate of the Canadian rifle being used at Bisley. Major Richardson, speaking of the Olympic contest in Sweden last year, in which soldiers from the United States, Great Britain, and other countries competed, points out why the American team won, in these words:

The day was hot and the light very glaring, which placed us at the greatest possible disadvantage when compared with the United States of America, who used aperture sights. They shot twice as fast as we did, and the shot for shot record showed that all our men's eyes became tired with defining their sights. Every one lost 'angle' during each series.

The total number of rounds fired by each man in the Olympic match was 50. The British team made a good start, especially Ommundsen, who scored 149 points out of a possible 150 at the two first distances, but their was a marked falling off in the subsequent stages of the contest.

This shows that the aperture sight is the natural sight, and that by using it a soldier can fire twice as many shots and make a far greater percentage of hits than by using the open sight.

The National Rifle Association is not part and parcel of the War Office, except to the extent that it receives support from the Government. It is more or less at the mercy of the War Office, which has for a number of years been adopting fads in rifle shooting. They have now adopted a fad, the object of which I never could discover, that is, what they call a field service target; firing at a blank target. This, however, is a fad that is fast dying out, and it never gave any direct benefit in

the way of teaching men how to shoot. The War Office wish, for some unknown reason, to coerce the National Rifle Association into using this target. In the field service target they are doing away as far as possible with the system of accurate scoring that is possible with the bull's-eye target, and they are making the regulations such that in certain matches, especially the King's prize match, which is the match that the Canadian volunteer aspires to take part in above all others, no rifle can be used unless it has the open sight.

The National Rifle Association, with the full consent of the British War Office, has used the aperture sight since 1909. There is nothing new about it whatever. There is not a rifleman in Great Britain but has the aperture sight at his disposal, and would have the right to use it, were it not for the rule recently imposed by the British War Office. There would be no hardship in allowing it to be used. The British rifle has the middle sight, the aperture sight being an attachment at the rear; whereas the Canadian rifle has no middle sight and there is no place where a middle sight can be attached, and therefore, the Canadian riflemen cannot compete. The gentlemen who are enforcing this regulation must know this fact just as clearly as we do here, and they must know that we must either abandon our rifle and use the obsolete Lee-Enfield rifle or else retire from the contest.

We have used the aperture sight since 1909; the British riflemen have used it. Our rifles are not fitted with the middle sight. As far as I am concerned, I do not intend to interfere with the Dominion Rifle Association; but we control the funds and the volunteers, and no volunteer will be allowed to leave the shores of the Dominion of Canada with any such handicap upon him as is placed upon him by that regulation. It is violating the rule laid down by Her Majesty in the constitution of the association whereby it was designed to encourage rifle shooting in our dominions beyond the sea as well as in Great Britain.

For the last number of years, the British War Office have been endeavouring to build up a model war rifle. I heard about it four years ago. I happened to be at Washington and, from the war authorities there, I learned the full details of the new British rifle. During the following year I was in Germany, and from the German officers I learned the full details of the new British rifle. I went to the British War Office, but could learn nothing from them. I was informed that, if I went to Enfield and poked