

stand it can be shown—that the ranges can be made practically safe. Assuming that this is done, we cannot believe that the first objection will be insisted upon. Now that Wimbledon is tabooed after the present year, the public have begun to see that it would be a grievous mistake to drive the National Association away from the neighbourhood of London, and the proposal to adopt a part of Richmond Park to its purposes has been received with great favour even by the *Times*, which two or three years ago was all for sending the N.R.A. away from London altogether.

In default of Richmond Park, the other sites near London, which have been examined by the Council of the National Rifle Association, do not appear, we must say, with one exception, very promising. That exception is Staines, which it seems would do very well, though it is conveniently far from town, only that the owners of the ground put a price on it which is practically prohibitory. The real question is, whether the Association is, or is not, to be driven to hold its prize meetings away from the neighbourhood of London.

Colonel Burt rightly pointed out on Tuesday last, that wherever the meetings are held, they must be held at or in the neighbourhood of some great centre where there would be at least plenty of local entries. A strong appeal in favour of going to Altcar in 1889 was made at the meeting on Tuesday by Colonel Macfie, and the Northern Volunteers could not have had a more able or courteous advocate of their claims. And, indeed, everyone was pretty well agreed that if no range very near London should turn out to be available, it would be well to go for at least one year to the great Lancashire range. But we cannot agree with Colonel Macfie and those whom he represents, in thinking that there is really any question of "claims" in the matter. Unless the Association is to be a migratory year by year, its permanent home must be near some great centre of population, and London is just the centre to which most competitors will be attracted.

On the whole, it seems to us that every nerve should be strained to overcome the objections of the Duke of Cambridge, and thus to enable the National Rifle Association to secure a permanent abiding place in Richmond Park, which has been so graciously offered by Her Majesty. The part of the Park which we understand would be available would be that entered by the Sheen Gate, which is very near the Mortlake Station of the South Western Railway, and which is, therefore, practically as convenient, if not more convenient, than Wimbledon Common. It is familiar to some of our older readers, as being the tract on which in early days the Inns of Court used to manoeuvre under Colonel Brewster. There cannot be a more beautiful spot, or one better adapted to the purpose for which the Queen has destined it. If the objections which have been raised can be removed, as we believe they can be, the National Rifle Association will enter in its thirtieth year upon a shooting ground which may even console its members for the loss of the lovely common at Wimbledon.

Gzowski Shifting Ordnance Competition.

THE secretary of the Dominion Artillery Association, Capt. J. B. Donaldson, has issued a circular detailing the conditions of the annual field battery shifting ordnance competition for the Gzowski cup. This is to be competed for on parade during annual drill by the four sub-divisions of the battery. The prizes to be awarded to the batteries performing the conditions in the shortest average time.

CONDITIONS.

Nine-pounder gun and limber, four horses. Four detachments each, to consist of 1 n.c. officer (mounted), 6 gunners, 2 drivers. Field day order.

Detachment to be in order of march. No. 1 and drivers—stand to their horses.

1. Gunners and drivers prepare to mount. Mount. 2. Forward at a trot. March. Left incline. Left-shoulders. Forward. Left-shoulders. Forward. Left incline. Halt.

The gun to be taken round two pickets, each 30 yards from the leaders, and 30 yards apart, and back again to original ground. 3. Action—front. 4. Load with drill cartridge and fire one round with friction tube. 5. Cease firing. Rear limber up. 6. Gunners prepare to mount. Mount.

7. Forward at a trot. March. Gun to be taken straight through two pickets, 3 feet high, 40 yards distant, and 6 feet 8 inches apart—as soon as 15 yards clear then: 8. Halt. Action rear. 9. Load with a second drill cartridge and fire one round. 10. Front limber up. Form the order of march. Halt.

Cartridges to be taken separately from the limber box by No. 7. Ammunition not to be carried. For striking any of the pickets, 5 seconds to be added to the total time. For any faults or mistakes in drill

as judged by the umpire—5 seconds to be added for each. Umpire's decision to be final. No appeal.

Prizes: 1st—Gzowski Challenge Cup and \$30. 2nd—\$20. 3rd—\$10.

Annual Gun Practice of Garrison Batteries.

THE following details have been promulgated by Lieut.-Col. D. T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, to govern the garrison artillery competition which, as announced last week, is to be held at the Island of Orleans in September:

1. In accordance with G. O. (10), 11, 5, 88, the following arrangements will be made for the annual gun practice of garrison batteries or brigades in the Dominion.

2. With the approval and sanction of the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence and the Major-General commanding the militia, a garrison artillery competition will be held at Quebec about the middle of September, under the auspices of the Dominion Artillery Association.

3. Transport will be provided from local headquarters to Quebec and return, for not more than four detachments from the Halifax and Montreal brigades, and three detachments from the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island brigades, and for not more than one detachment from each other affiliated battery.

4. Each detachment to consist of two officers and seven non-commissioned officers or gunners, and those from brigades may be composed of representatives selected from the whole brigade.

5. Subject to the above provisions there will be no objections to detachments being sent from each battery in a brigade, but the number of detachments from brigades will be deducted from the number of batteries authorized to practise at headquarters.

6. Detailed rules for the above competition will be published subsequently.

7. Officers commanding brigades and batteries will make the necessary requisition, without delay, for ammunition to be used at local headquarters by batteries which do not intend to send representative detachments to Quebec.

8. Rules for practice, as published by Inspector of Artillery. Officers' instructional practice will be carried out before the competition firing.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

QUEBEC AMMUNITION IMPROVING.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—The radical changes made in this year's programme of the D. R. A. have, I presume, created as much stir in shooting circles all over the Dominion as they have down here. While all shooting men approve of the removal of all "lottery features" from our Canadian Wimbledon, we do not all agree that the Snider at 600 yds. must go. The record of this rifle, in competition with the Martini, at 600, 800, 900 and 1,000 yds. in India, in 1886 (see N. R. A. report for '86), places the whole responsibility for its failure in '86 and '87 in Canada upon some unfortunate defect in our Canadian ammunition. The wonderful improvement in our shooting at 600 yds. this season warrants the statement that the 1888 issue of Snider ammunition is fully equal to the best English, the Mark IX. Bull's eye after bull's eye is now 'plugged' in at 600 yds. with our old Sniders, and the hideous drop-shot is a thing of the past.

When the comparative cheapness of Snider practice is considered, it would be well if, in consideration of the excellence of the 1888 make of Snider ammunition, a revision of the D. R. A. programme would be brought about. The practical abandonment of the Snider at 600 yds. at the Ottawa meeting would have a very chilling effect on rifle practice over the whole Dominion, and that would be a greater misfortune than even the loss of the Wimbledon incentive.

Quebec, June 11th, '88.

RIFLEMAN.

In the English cavalry, warrant officers, staff sergeants, troop sergeant-major, farriers, and trumpeters are armed with the revolver and fire 12 rounds per annum for practice, six right and six left handed. The Colt's and Adams' are being superseded by the self-extracting Enfield. In the infantry warrant officers and staff-sergeants wear revolvers.

With an admirably drilled army of 100,000 men on a peace footing, a navy to which constant additions are being made, mostly from English yards, and her forty-nine fertile provinces how linked by railways, Spain—in the Elizabethan age England's greatest rival—seems to be resuming her position as a great continental power.