

## THE DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.



THE twenty-eighth annual competition, under the auspices of the above association, opened at the Rideau ranges, Ottawa, on Monday, August 31. Saturday and Sunday saw large numbers of marksmen arrive by trains. From Halifax to Vancouver is a long distance, but, notwithstanding, the enthusiasts who hold the rifle do not think about the distance when their beloved sport is to take place.

Many old-timers were there, too. Some of them have seen various changes, both as regards the improvements on the rifle and

on the manipulation of the black and white, which either leads him to honor or to try better next time.

Twenty-six meetings have taken place at Rideau, but it would appear as if the meet just closed will be the last on the old ground. Since the first meet there the changes in everything connected with rifle shooting have taken rapid strides, and the proceeding to fresh fields is an indication of the progressive association which governs these meetings. It has seen the rise of an association of great dimensions. Although the old shots will leave it with regret, having seen many scenes, still they will be glad that they are likely to get on to a range where they can understand the weather conditions better than they can at Rideau, for it is a well-known fact that many a good man has met his Waterloo simply because he could not get into the ways of the wind; as, for instance, during the meet which has just closed, the flag at the butts would be indicating a right wind while the smoke

at 600 yards would indicate a left. It is very much subject to fishy winds, and is considered one of the most difficult ranges to shoot at in the Dominion. Next year, with the new ranges, perhaps this bad name will be removed.

The scene on the grounds was a very pretty one. Immediately across the road from the 600 yards range were the secretary's, treasurer's, statistical officer's, secretary C.M.P.L. marquees, while at right angles to these were the press, Minister of Militia's, executive officer's, and general officer commanding's marquees. At the head of the main walk which divides the marquees is the council tent. The various battalions occupy tents on either side. The tents are prettily decorated with bunting, while at the entrance to each are

flower beds filled with flowers. Even the Scotch thistle was there at the entrance to the tent occupied by the Highlanders from Toronto. Many a Scotchman as he passed his native emblem gave a longing look as it brought him back to the days of yore. The scene was a very pretty one, and long to be remembered by competitor and visitor alike.

As in everything else, it requires men with tact and skill to carry out and keep ahead of the lines in shooting competitions. To make matters run smoothly is the aim of the officials, and this can truly be said of them at Rideau. There are a few of the officials who were connected with it in the old days still on hand, and their enthusiasm is as keen as ever. Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson has a great grasp of the work of the Treasurer's Department, and is ever ready to meet the requirements of his office with promptitude. Lieut.-Col. Bacon, the secretary, had his plans, like a good general, well laid out, and is a hard-working and energetic secretary. Major

John Walsh is at the top rung of the ladder as a statistical officer. He has ever a ready word for both competitor and official, and the assistance which he renders to the press is indeed very beneficial.

Lieut.-Col. Hodgins, G. G. F. G., was executive officer. The position which he occupies on the ranges is not by any means a soft snap. His is the guiding hand that leads the outside arrangements into such smooth waters. He knows fully what he wants, and when he assumes the position there is no danger of failure. He was ably assisted by range officers from different corps. With such men in charge, the work of an association such as the D.R.A. is sure to run evenly.

Eight o'clock on Monday morning saw the most of the cracks, who were to try their luck at the Canadian Bisley, on the field. A goodly number stayed on the ranges, but the vast majority put up at the various hotels. The finishing touches were being put to sights, etc., when Col. Hodgins gave

the command at eight o'clock to fire the signal gun. Shooting commenced immediately after in the extra series.

Pte. G. Curtiss, 57th Peterborough Rangers, was the first one to finish with a complete score. In all, he had 9 bulls: one a sighter, 5 on score and 3 in a tie.

Rain had fallen very heavily on Sunday, and as the men started they were anything but comfortable as they lay on the damp ground. The sun vainly endeavored to pierce the gloom of the grey clouds which made the firing points bright and the targets dark. Notwithstanding this, four possibles were registered, besides that of Curtiss, in the extra series by Lieut. Ogg, 1st B.F.A.; Major Henderson, 48th; Sergt. Milligan, 14th, and Capt. Spearing, 53rd.



LIEUT.-COLONEL JOHN MACPHERSON.

Director of Stores and Keeper of Militia Properties, Treasurer of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, Ottawa.