

hall. Along the line the air was filled with music from the regimental band, in charge of Mr. Johnson, and from the bugle band, both of which organizations were in good form.

The following list shows the strength of the companies on parade: "A" company, Captain Chambre, Lieut. Baker, 18 files; "B" company, Capt. Meadows, Lieut. Jackson, 13 files; "C" company, Capt. Mitchell, 11 files; "D" company, Capt. Rowley, Lieut. Wilson, 15 files; "E" company, Capt. Lang, 12 files; "F" company, Capt. Allardyce, Lieut. McDonald, 16 files; "G" company, Capt. Goulding, Lieut. Mulvey, 17 files; "H" company, Capt. MacHaffie, Lieut. Mermargen, 19 files, the total strength of the parade, including band and bugle band, being 276.

The battalion goes into camp on the 18th inst., and there is great enthusiasm in the regiment. There will be a church parade on Sunday, the 17th.

The bugle band made a very good showing, having only had a short time to practice this season, many of the members being new men.

At the drill hall the members were complimented by Col. Boswell on their appearance and general bearing and reminded them of the annual drill and camp.--Free Press.

National Rifle Association.

SPRING GENERAL MEETING.

The spring general meeting of members of the association was held on Wednesday afternoon, May 30th, in the theatre of the Royal United Service Institution. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge presided. Among the members of the Council and general body of subscribers present were Earl Waldegrave (chairman of Council), Hon. T. F. Fremantle, Mr. G. Mortimer, Col. Sir Henry Wilmot, Bt., V.C., Col. Sir Henry Halford, Bt., C.B., Major Knox, C.B., Capt. Stewart Pixley, Mr. A. P. Humphry, Col. Marsden, Lord Kinnaird, Major Flood-Page, Col. Mackinnon (secretary), Messrs. W. L. Winans, T. Down, M. C. Matthews, J. Wyatt, W. A. Spencer, B. White, Col. Wemyss, Lieut.-Col. Bird, Messrs. J. R. MacDonnell, J. Mellings, Capt. Warren, Capt. East, Messrs. C. Knapp, W. H. Hobbins, C. F. Lowe, G. Fulton, Capt. Dutton Hunt, Capt. Heath, Messrs. J. McCormack, J. Stewart, H. Baker, J. D. Dougall, and Capt. J. S. Oxley.

The Duke of Cambridge, in opening the proceedings, mentioned some of the more important matters in connection with which changes had been made from the 1893 programme, etc.: He said the Bisley camp would be opened on the 9th of July, and the shooting competitions would commence on the following day. The revolver competitions had been enlarged, as the interest in revolver shooting appeared to be increasing so much. The maximum calibre of breechloaders had been fixed so as to include only the most modern types of these rifles, namely, those firing a compound bullet with smokeless powder, and there were several new competitions for this class of rifle. Then there was a special competition for all troops armed with carbines. In the Martini-Henry class there were also new competitions. He would make special mention of the valuable series of prizes offered to the Navy and Regular Army in the Imperial competition, also to the Sir James Whitehead prize for rapid

firing, in commemoration of the formation of the Volunteer Patriotic Fund, under the auspices of Sir James Whitehead, when Lord Mayor of London. The St. George's would be shot in two stages. Retired Volunteers could now take any prize, except Her Majesty the Queen's prize, the gold medal, and the gold badge, in all competitions formerly restricted to efficient Volunteers. Special encouragement was offered to tyros, and there would be great facilities for pool-shooting. He was glad to say that an arrangement had been made for the sale of some of the Association land to the War Department, and for the use of certain ranges at Bisley for the musketry training of Regular regiments. He thought this agreement would prove of advantage to both sides, as it would assist the Association financially, and would not interfere with their shooting arrangements, while it would afford certain regiments greater opportunities for becoming efficient in musketry training—a matter in which all branches of the Army were greatly interested. The amount to be received from the War Department would be sufficient to pay off the debt to the bank and leave a substantial sum in hand. A vacancy on the Council having occurred through the resignation of Mr. G. T. Biddulph, the Council had elected Major McKerrell to fill the same, subject to the confirmation at the next winter general meeting.

Earl Waldegrave then, at the request of the Duke of Cambridge, referred serially to the new prizes and competitions introduced into this year's programme, and pointed to the advantages of the various innovations. As these have been mentioned at some length in a recent issue of the Volunteer Record, and are, therefore, pretty well understood, it is needless to repeat his Lordship's remarks in detail. Among the matters touched upon by the speaker, which are, perhaps, not generally known, is that all prize winners in the grand aggregate will receive crosses—the first and second men getting gold and silver crosses, respectively, as heretofore, and the whole of the remainder, instead of forty-eight, bronze crosses. Another matter which seemed to meet with approval was the announcement that the penalty for hitting the wrong target has been reduced from 5s. to 2s. 6d. Among other subjects alluded to by his Lordship was the coming of a Canadian team; an expression of hope that the evening entertainments in camp would be continued this year; an explanation of the cause of delay in publishing the programme of competitions; and the important intimation that the Council have accepted the services of Mr. McCloskie, of the Star and Garter Hotel, Windsor, as refreshment contractor, in place of Messrs. Probyn & Co.

Mr. Hobbiss, speaking in reference to a remark from the Duke of Cambridge regarding the recent shooting fatality at Wimbledon, said he was one of the jury at the inquest. As the result of the evidence it would seem the speaker arrived at the conclusion that sufficient care was not taken by the cemetery authorities to guard against accident.

Mr. Lowe asked a question regarding the ammunition to be used in the M.B.I. competitions, and said that by the regulations made by the Council in this connection, the French, German, Belgian, and Austrian service rifles were practically barred from this class of competition. He had hope to see next year the N.R.A. regulations as to Retired Volunteers and the Queen's prize assimilated to the conditions which obtain in regard to the granting of the Long-Service Decoration. The speaker then submitted a Martini rifle, fitted with a telescope sight, to the Duke of Cambridge for examination.

After some remarks from Earl Waldegrave, Mr. Fremantle, and Sir Henry Halford, in reply to Mr. Lowe, Capt. Heath drew attention to a letter

he had forwarded to the Council asking for some relaxation in the regulations relating to the "Efficient Volunteer" clause in favor of the Channel Islands Militia, owing to their conditions of service being entirely different from those of ordinary Volunteers.

Earl Waldegrave, after a few words in reply to Capt. Heath, proposed a vote of thanks to the Duke of Cambridge for presiding.

His Royal Highness briefly replied, wishing prosperity in the future to the National Rifle Association.

The Long-Service Decoration.

SPECIAL ARMY ORDER.

The London Gazette of the 25th ult. containing a special army order issued by the Adjutant-General relating to the grant of a Long-Service medal to the Volunteer Force, as follows:

"1. Her Majesty the Queen having been graciously pleased to institute a medal for the Volunteer Force, which will be designated as 'The Volunteer Long-Service Medal,' the following instructions, to form part of the Volunteer Regulations, are issued for the guidance of all concerned:

"2. The medal will be granted to all Volunteers (including officers who have served in the ranks, but have not qualified for the Volunteer Officers' Decoration) on completion of twenty years' service in the Volunteer Force, provided that they were actually serving on the 1st January, 1893, and they are recommended by their present, or former, commanding officers in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

"3. In all cases, the commanding officer will be the medium through whom applications will be made, and retired Volunteers will apply through the officer commanding the corps in which they last served.

"4. A form of application (Army Form E 593) which provides for a record and a Certificate of Meritorious Service, to be signed by the commanding officer, will be submitted through the usual channel of correspondence to the general officer commanding the district, to whom a supply of the form, for distribution throughout the Force, will shortly be issued.

"5. The decision of the general officer commanding the district upon the validity, or otherwise, of any claim for the medal will be absolutely final.

"6. Service, whether as officer, non-commissioned officer, or private, must have been consecutive. Any officer who is subsequently awarded the Volunteer Officers' Decoration will surrender the medal.

"7. The Volunteer Long Service medal will be worn with the tunic only, and upon the left breast.

"8. Commanding officers will forward with Army Form E 593 a nominal roll, arranged alphabetically. This roll will be forwarded in duplicate, one copy being retained by the general service officer commanding the district, and the other forwarded to the Adjutant-General with his recommendation.

"9. General officers commanding districts will, on the 1st January, 1st April, 1st July, or 1st October, submit these nominal rolls to the Adjutant-General.

"10. Names of recipients will be promulgated quarterly in Army Orders, after the publication of which the original individual applications will be returned by general officers commanding to the headquarters of the various Volunteer corps for record and retention.

"By Command,

"REDVERS BULLER, A.G."