

SPORTS NEWS.

Seaford Area Gymkhana.

Committee:—Col. S. D. Gardner, C.M.G., M.C., Hon. President; Col. T. V. Anderson, D.S.O., Hon. Vice-President; Lieut.-Col. H. C. Greer, President; Lieut. S. H. Grant, Secretary; Lieut.-Col. J. B. P. Dunbar, Major D. H. Barnett, Capt. H. T. May, M.C., Capt. F. Duckworth, Lieut. W. W. Cooper, Lieut. F. W. Camp, Major A. MacArthur, Major C. Shergold, M.C., D.C.M., Capt. W. J. Forbes Mitchell, Lieut. E. J. Masters, Lieut. J. B. Jordan, Lieut. D. E. C. Campbell; Lieut. E. R. Gilley, Track Recorder; Sergt.-Major T. Barnetson and Sergt. M. G. Coates, Announcers.

Judges:—Lieut.-Col. C. L. Bott, Lieut.-Col. P. J. Daly, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. W. M. Balfour, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. C. B. Worsnop, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. K. C. Bedson, Lieut.-Col. A. G. Turner, M.C., Lieut.-Col. W. F. Kemp, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. T. R. Caldwell, Lieut.-Col. J. P. Fell, Major P. Ward, Major A. L. Farrant, Major R. G. Hargreaves, Major C. E. Bush, Major A. G. Lawson, M.C., Capt. E. Bowler, D.C.M.

Entertainment Committee:—Major J. Hope, Major L. H. McKenzie, Capt. E. Hudgin, Capt. C. F. C. Porteous, Capt. A. Wrightson, Lieut. C. F. Day, Lieut. R. C. Hayes, Major H. E. Smith, Major A. M. Stroud, Capt. S. W. Hobart, Capt. J. Dunlop, Lieut. A. H. Weston, Lieut. S. Woodward, Lieut. W. Marsh.

The first Gymkhana held by the Canadian troops in the Seaford area (by kind permission of Col. C. D. Gardner, C.M.G., M.C., etc.), took place on Monday, August 5th, and Wednesday, August 7th.

After a portion of the programme had been carried through on the first day in circumstances rendered very distressing by the numerous vagaries of the weather clerk, the meeting was postponed till Wednesday.

On both days the event, which had been widely announced, drew record crowds; the gathering was estimated at between seven and eight thousand of all ranks; a very large number of gentlemen in civil life also attended.

We are unable—nor have we the space—to give a list of all the distinguished people present, but the meeting on the first day would have been notable not only as a sporting event, but as a social success had the weather only been propitious.

Although this gymkhana was a headquarters fixture and open to all units of H.M. Forces, it became in reality a Canadian Engineer triumph, as the 1st Canadian Engineer Reserve Battalion took no less than nineteen prizes—seventeen of these going to "C" Coy.

As is only natural, a very great share of the work of preparation and organisation fell upon the shoulders of "C" Company of this Battalion, and it was very ably carried out.

Lieut. Grant, as secretary, was indefatigable, working practically day and night for a week before the event, getting things in shape. On the ground he took charge of everything, and carried it to a successful conclusion.

Unfortunately, officers from the C.M.G. at Maresfield, who were present on Monday, were unable to attend the postponed meeting on Wednesday.

The ground was in perfect condition and the horsemanship of a very high order. The competitions in tent-pegging, tilting the ring, and the officers' jumping event provided style unsurpassed in the area and seldom surpassed out of it.

A fine collection of prizes was offered for competition, and a special cup for the officers' jumping, presented by the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths' Company. This was won by Capt. H. T. May, of the 1st Canadian Engineer Battalion, in such good style that the Captain was asked to give another exhibition round.

A humorous touch was given to this part of the programme by Dvr. Hodges, who followed the officers over the jumps in a clown's costume and mounted on a bare-backed cart horse—taking every jump.

Music was provided by the Bands of the Canadian Engineers Training Centre and the Canadian Machine Gun Depot, by kind permission of Col. T. V. Anderson, D.S.O., C.E.T.C., and Lieut.-Col. W. M. Balfour, D.S.O., C.M.G.D., Bandmasters F. G. Gorse, C.E.T.C., and L. F. Addison, C.M.G.D., officiating with the baton.

The excellent arrangements of the Entertainment Committee enabled the large number of ladies and gentlemen present to obtain refreshment on pleasantly decorated lawns situated behind the stands, where the gay dresses of the ladies and the uniforms of the gentlemen made a kaleidoscopic medley of colour reminiscent of the old days of military fetes.

The prizes were graciously presented by Mrs. Gardner, supported by Col. S. D. Gardner, C.M.G., M.C., and Staff.

In the various events there is not a great deal to be noted save the results.

The 1st C.E.R.B. pontoon wagon and team was a triumph of polish, paint and perseverance.

The officers' tent-pegging went very deservedly to Capt. Joslin, of the Machine Gun Depot at Maresfield. Capt. Joslin showed remarkably fine style in the face of wet ground and a heavy rain.

There was no fighting for the Balaclava Melée, as this went to the 1st C.E.R.B. by default. On the second day, however, an exhibition fight was rendered for the benefit of spectators.

Both the 1st C.E.R.B. Cable Detachment and the Machine Gun Detachment of the C.M.G.D. gave very spirited and efficient displays of the work in their departments—the machine gunners especially being very realistic.

The officers' cigar and umbrella race was the last event attempted in the wet on the first day, and lost thereby a good deal of the fun that properly attaches to such a race. In the officers' bending race, Capt. May had the misfortune to dislodge one of the poles and so lost a race that was otherwise right in his pocket.