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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Another Dominion meeting has been held, and another team has won its place for Wimbledon, and now we can sit down and look back over the past week and consider what experience has been gained, and in what direction improvements are possible in the future. As far as regards the management of the meeting nothing was left to be desired; the squadding was carried out on the time principle adopted by the late secretary, and the matches were fired all through on schedule time, and this notwithstanding the rain on Tuesday; the marking was good, and the register keepers and range officers were well up to their work. For this every praise is due to Lt.-Col. Bacon and Major Macpherson. To send away 300 competitors satisfied that they had had a pleasant meeting was an achievement to be proud of, and we certainly have heard no grumbling, though we reserve the right to do a little criticizing ourselves when occasion offers.

Sighting shots must go. At least this was the unanimous verdict of the competitors on Tuesday and, if monetary considerations do not interfere, the Council will doubtless carry out the suggestion. The strength of the feeling against the system was a surprise to everyone, especially to the officers of the Association. The saving of time, the saving of money and the encouragement of individual judgment which will result, all argue in favor of their abolition, but how are the \$600 which they brought in as revenue to be replaced? Many suggestions were made in this direction, including the increase of entry fees, the reduction of working expenses, and the increase of pool targets.

The absence of sufficient accommodation for the 500 yards extra series matches was this year again very apparent, and before next meeting the executive must take action to supply this want. It is certain that the Association lost many entries from this cause, and it is no exaggeration to say that 30 men were waiting at the butts from nine each morning till six each evening for a chance to fire. With the abolition of sighting shots this want will be intensified, and 600 yard targets will be wanted in addition.

The volley firing in the Middleton match was emphatically not a success, and in many instances degenerated pretty much into individual firing, and the causes are not far to seek. The limited time during which the targets were exposed hurried the men, and they did not pay proper attention to the word of command, or mistook the word of another team commander for their own. Then when they found themselves unchecked once they became careless in later volleys, while it was impossible to single out offenders from the long line of skirmishers. Another year it will be necessary to handle the different teams separately to arrive at satisfactory results.

It seems advisable to remodel the arrangements for all the skirmishing matches with a view to lessening the time which they occupy and announcing the result with promptitude. On Thursday it took five hours to fire 360 rounds, and the result was not known till long after the competitors had left the ground; on Friday it took nearly as long to fire 270 rounds, and the competitors missed the distribution of prizes. There seems no reason why the matches should not be so arranged as to allow firing nearly as promptly as in the ordinary matches, and the results should be announced as ascertained without waiting for the conclusion of the match.

A suggestive indication of the unpopularity of the Gzowski matches is found in the fact that the forty-third battalion has never put in a team for them since the first year they were organized, while they were able to put in a team for the Middleton match which could secure third place against those that had had the advantage of the previous day's practice. If the D. R. A. wish to make the military matches take they must remodel them on these lines.

A somewhat novel scheme has been recently submitted to the Dominion Government, having for its object the formation of a military colony in the North-west. The actual details of the proposition are not all before us, but the idea appears a good one, viz.: the establishment of a semi-military force, which in times of peace would not cost the Government anything in the way of pay, as each man would receive a specified number of acres and would till the ground for his maintenance, like an ordinary settler, but would be supplied with an equipment—clothing, arms and accoutrements—so that in any emergency they would be prepared to go on active service, and during such a time would, of course, be under the usual militia law and militia pay. The permanence of a small staff would of course be necessary and the main