

## THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the National Rifle Association is never without interest to Canadians, who to a large extent follow in the footsteps of the parent institution in the preparation of their annual programme.

The meeting just held is than more of ordinary interest, as proposals have been made by the Council which a few years ago would have been considered altogether too radical changes to introduce.

H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, President of the Association, presided, and in the course of his address announced that it had been decided for this year to condense the principal M. H. competitions into the last week of the meeting.

Under this arrangement the last Saturday will be the most interesting day of the meeting as it will contain the 3rd stage of the Queen's and other interesting competitions, and end with a presentation of prizes.

The rapid firing competitions will this year be excluded from the aggregates, as there was much grumbling and dissatisfaction over them in consequence of the luck element entering into them too freely.

What will be read with most interest, however, by very many of our volunteers is the fact that the Council have decided to allow retired volunteers to enter, under certain qualifications, for all competitions included in the Volunteer Aggregate, and to be eligible for all prizes in them except any prize in the Queen's and the first in the St. George's and Martins.

It has been urged for years upon the authorities of both the Dominion and Provincial Associations here that some provision ought to be made to allow retired volunteers to compete in the same matches as are open to retired officers, and now that this principle is being introduced by the N.R. A. we may hope to see some move made in the same direction by our own associations.

Major M'Kerrell in sending the adoption of the report suggested that the Council would do well to go one step further with regard to the veterans and allow them to compete for the Queen's Prize, etc., as well as for the Volunteer Aggregates. Although this has not been adopted for this year there is every probability that a move having been made in favour of

retired volunteers it will be enlarged as time goes on and these "veterans" will enjoy the full privilege of shooting in all competitions.

This course ought now to be followed here. At present retired officers have the privilege of competing for everything except Bisley; the same rights ought to be extended to N.C.O.'s and men. The term of service which it would be necessary for them to put in in order for them to obtain this privilege might be made eight or ten years or even more, but there ought to be a period of service fixed after which a man should be allowed to retire, and have a right to take part in the annual rifle matches if he wishes to do so.

The council announced that efforts would be made to ensure a better supply of M. H. ammunition than had been served out last year, and the announcement was received with much pleasure and considerable applause.

It was stated by a member that a detachment of American, French and Belgian riflemen were going to Bisley this year, and Mr. C. F. Lawe advocated that they should be allowed to take part in the Volunteer competitions with their regulation rifles.

It was determined to largely increase the target accommodation and the list of prizes for the revolver competitions, owing to the liberal support these matches received last year.

There are to be two classes of revolvers—military and army—with a series of prizes for each.

Other suggestions we will call attention to in a later issue.

## Letters to the Editor.

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.

### A VOICE FROM THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

DEAR SIR.—I read the letter in last issues of your esteemed paper re Martini-Henry ammunition, and thought how well it would be if the Bisley team could take some of our Quebec make over this year, and prove (in the practices at least) that it was superior to the English manufacture. We have learned by experience how to manufacture Snider, and perhaps the young apprentice, Canada, can now give the master workman a few pointers about Martini-Henry.

Anent the team: I supposed your excellent paper would have been filled with correspondence containing all sorts of ad-

vice and suggestions not only for the members of the team themselves, but also for the Executive of the D.R.A., as to the selection of the officers to command, but presume it is too early in the season. Though living so far away from the centre of things I know the innate modesty of the leaders of opinion in our shooting world, and do not desire to injure their well earned reputation in that particular, else I would relieve the Ex. of all responsibility by nominating and electing the Commandant and Adjutant at once, and settle the matter, giving New Brunswick both officers this year, as a matter of tardy justice. It is we think a correct theory that the Adjutant should have been on the team before—a good business man, and one in whose ability and fairness the team have the highest confidence; and as to the Commandant, he should surely be one (other things being equal) whose interest in and services for the cause of rifle shooting, is a matter of record. Judging by the names of which the prospective team is to be composed it may be said it is a fairly good one, and if properly handled will give a good account of itself; but "one never can tell, you know," and "Bulls' eyes speak louder than words." We read the honour list and wish we were "in it," and that it may be highly successful is the desire of  
A. PLUNGER.

### THE LATE MAURICE SHEA.

SIR,—There seems to be a good deal of misapprehension as to the claims of the late Maurice Shea to be regarded as a survivor of Waterloo. As "Lieutenant" Maurice Shea he had none. His discharge from the British army is with the rank of corporal, and is signed "M. C. O'Connell, Colonel Lt.-Col. commanding 73rd Regiment." His rank of lieutenant was for service in Spain under Sir DeLacy Evans. His Waterloo medal has inscribed on its rim "M. Shea, 2nd Batt., 73rd Regiment." The 73rd Regiment was a Waterloo regiment. The Waterloo medal is such an one as any person who has ever seen one can identify and swear to.

As I write I have before me the certificate "that Corporal Maurice Shea, late of the 73rd Foot, is an out-pensioner of Her Majesty's Royal Hospital at Chelsea at the rate of fifteen pence per diem," &c. This is signed "George Hatt, secretary and registrar, Royal Hospital, Chelsea." He has been in receipt of this magnificent pension up to the time of his death. Any incredulous person can refer to the Chelsea commissioners as to his claims to be regarded as a survivor of Waterloo.

Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen has a photograph of the old soldier, and the old soldier had a letter of thanks from Sir Henry Ponsonby stating that "the Queen was much interested in seeing the portrait, and hopes that he may live to enjoy many anniversaries of Waterloo."