

RIFLE COMPETITION.

CREEKMOOR.

The first competition for the Remington diamond badge, for long range firing, took place at the range of the N. R. A. November 15. With the exception of the Sharpshooter's match at the meeting of the association last month, this was really the first trial of skill at long range. This match therefore excited more than usual our amateur marksmen; and the first contest, despite the late season, drew no less than sixteen competitors. The noon hour and day specified for the holding of the match likewise made it difficult for many to leave their business, as the shooting at three ranges 500, 800, and 1,000 yards, with even these comparatively few competitors, consumed about four hours. The day, which opened rather threatening, proved after all very acceptable, the sun coming out, making the grounds look congenial to the marksmen. The wind was not strong, and at the last competition became reduced to almost a calm. The temperature later in the afternoon also moderated, so that on the whole, the season considered, the day was exceedingly fair for shooting, and the marksmanship displayed at the different ranges was not in the least inferior for a beginning. Mr Robert Omand, a marksman of long practice—in fact an expert shot—won the prize by a score of 70 out of a possible 85 at the three ranges. Mr. Omand, as before stated, won the 2nd prize in the Sportsman's match (500 and 1,000 yards) at the first meeting of the N. R. A., making 25 at the 500 yards, and 16 at 1,000 yards. In this last competition, however, he made 23 at 500, 25 at 800 and 22 at 1,000 yards. At the first range he was equalled by several competitors, and beaten by four; while at the second range Lieutenant-Colonel Gildersleeve, of the Twelfth Infantry, made 27 to his 25. In the longest range, 1,000 yards, Mr. Omand, however left his ten competitors, with one exception, far in the rear, and this exception was that of Mr. J. S. Conlin, a professional marksman, who lost by 5 points only. The contest, after it became reduced to these two competitors, was very interesting, particularly as they were the last to finish their score. These gentlemen fired at different targets, being three targets apart, and during the firing the interest in the shooting was manifested by the quietude of the groups immediately in their rear. In one instance, at a simultaneous discharge, the white discs went up at both targets, and in another instance, just as Mr. Conlin was about to fire, a coach dog, belonging to some one on the grounds, crossed immediately before the muzzle of his rifle: even this however, did not disturb his aim, for he made a bull's-eye immediately after.

* Mr. Omand the winner is a Canadian Volunteer well known as Sergeant Omand—Ed. V. Rev.

In this connection we would state that we have observed in these matches a system of "coaching," which to say the least is objectionable. The rules of the association require that no one but the party firing and the scorers shall be at the firing point, but unfortunately this rule has been hard to enforce, and, despite every effort, spectators, and squads awaiting the call, will gather around firing competitors, and by general conversation, and direct remarks as to the firing and score of the competitors, cause no little annoyance to the parties concerned. In time we trust the association will protect competitors against this annoyance by erecting in the rear of these points a fence of wire or some such material, and force all not firing outside it during matches. The "coaching" system in vogue is allowing some one in the immediate rear of the contestant to load, swab, and otherwise adjust the rifle for the party firing; also to offer suggestions regarding the sights, etc. The far better and only fair plan would be to have each contestant "go it alone," and then there would be no chance for disputes. In this diamond match the second best shot was "coached," and at the last range never left his position, nor did any thing but aim and fire; while the winner neither asked nor accepted any assistance of this kind. Now, had the "coached" party won the badge, we think there would have been good grounds for a protest, for it is a well known fact that our amateur marksmen are particularly fond of protests.

The conditions of this match excluded telescopic sights, but allowed any breech-loader not over 10lbs., with trigger not less than 3 lbs. pull. The best twenty shots only were to go to the 500 yards range, but as the entries were less than this number, all fired at the first two ranges, with the following result:

Name and arm.	500yds.	800yds.
Robt. Omand (Remington sporting)	23	25
J. S. Conlin (Sharpe sporting)...	23	23
J. P. M. Richards, 7th Inf. (Sharpe sporting)	22	20
Leon Backer, 22d Inf, Remington sporting.....	22	21
S. J. Kellogg, 23d Infantry (Remington sporting)...	21	23
Lieut.-Col. Gildersleeve, 12th Inf. (Remington sporting).....	17	27
C. W. Yale (Sharp sporting).....	14	19
L. C. Bruce (Sharpe military).....	14	2
A. V. Canfield, 22d Inf. (Remington sporting).....	15	6
H. Fulton (Sharpe sporting).....	24	12
G. Hamilton (Sharpe sporting).....	17	2
D. Cameron, 79th Inf. (Remington sporting).....	12	6
Gen. J. V. Meserole (Remington sporting).....	12	4
Alex. Pyle, 79th Inf. (Remington sporting).....	13	3
A. Alford (Remington sp'g).....	15	0

At the 500 yards range Colonel Gildersleeve's sight slipped down to 300, and he had almost finished his score before he observed it. Mr. Canfield looked so sharp in firing at this same range that he broke his sight.

Only the ten best shots were allowed to fire at the 1,000 yards range, and the following is the aggregate score of these competitors.

	500 yds.	800 yds.	1000 yds.	Aggregate.
R. Omand (Remington sporting)	23	25	22	70
J. S. Conlin (Sharpe sporting)	23	23	22	68

sporting)	23	23	19	65
J. P. M. Richards, 7th Infantry (Sharpe sporting).....	22	20	16	58
Leon Backer, 22d Inf. (Rem. sp'g) ...	22	21	14	57
S. I. Kellogg, Jr., 23d Inf. (Remington sporting)	21	23	10	54
Lieut. Col. Gilder sleeve, 12th Inf. (Rem. sporting)	17	27	2	46
G. W. Yale (Sharp sporting)	24	19	0	43
Capt. L. C. Bruce (Sharpe military)	24	2	11	37
A. V. Canfield, Jr., 22d Inf. (Remington sporting).....	15	6	15	36
H. Fulton (Sharpe sporting)	24	12	0	36

The badge is a Roman gold—a miniature 500-yards target, with a diamond bull's-eye, is surrounded by laurel leaves. Above these are crossed Remington rifles, and above the rifles a scroll bearing the inscription, "Remington Badge." L. C. Clerk, of Philadelphia, has given a Whitworth rifle fully equipped, valued at \$100 in gold as the second prize. J. S. Conlin obtained the second prize, making 65 with a Sharpe sporting.

During last week there was good practice-shooting done by J. P. M. Richards, S. S. Conlin, G. W. Hamilton, Leon Backer, and others. Mr. Bethel Burton did some excellent shooting, scoring 19 out of a possible 20 with a Ward-Burton gun. Adjutant Murphy, Twelfth regiment, scored two 17s out of a possible 20 with a Ward-Burton gun. He also made 20 (five bull's-eyes) at 500 yards with his Remington military. Owing to the lateness of the season, the match for the Turf, Field and Farm badge, appointed for the 27th of November, will not be held.

The annual dinner of the Anglo-Belgian Prize Fund Association took place, *Broad Arrow* informs us, at Willis's Rooms, London, recently. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presided, and many English and foreign notabilities connected with the movement were present. The toast of "The Belgian Tir National and the Rifle Associations of Other Countries" was responded to by Vice Council Wich for Belgium, and by Colonel Hazard for the United States. The latter gave some interesting particulars of the citizen soldiers of America, which he introduced by a felicitous allusion to the smallness of the United States Regular Army. The hearty applause which followed every allusion to Belgium and the United States was one of the most marked features of the evening.

The Hague correspondent of the *Independent and Belge* writes in reference to the first expedition to Acheen: "The disaster has cost us 100,000,000 francs and 400 soldiers. It is certain that the chief command left much to desire as well under Gen. Kohlar as after his death. It was thought that a *coup de main* would be sufficient to take Acheen. When it was seen that the natives were prepared for a serious resistance, and fought heroically, it was feared that they might succeed in cutting off the line of retreat from our troops. The order to re-embark was given under the influence of these impressions.