

just before the Ontario gathering. This would give members of the Bisley team a little more margin of time, and many more would drop in on the way home. It would also suit better the class of men who are compelled to take leave of absence for a continuous period, many of whom might be inclined to include the Q. R. A. and O. R. A. as well as the D. R. A. in their programme if it could be conveniently arranged; and it would not interfere any more than the present system with members not limited to any particular time of leave. Let the meeting begin on Wednesday, and have it scheduled to run through in three days. There is no necessity for spreading it over four, and I know it prevents some from attending, probably many. This would give Saturday to spare in the event of bad weather, or other unforeseen contingency interfering with the programme.

2. Unlimited team entries would only benefit the local brigade, and if the outside corps take that view of it might cause a further falling off among them. There could be only one excuse to justify the change, namely, if it would bring in more revenue to the Association, but this is very doubtful, for while it might give a few more entries from local corps, it would very probably decrease the number of affiliated associations, as more than one affiliates now merely to enter a team, but whose members could probably fire as members of some other association already affiliated if allowed to enter as a second team.

3. To improve the value of the extra series prizes.

I pointed out the necessity of this last year, and my contention was fully borne out by the fact that during the last meeting the targets were more than once not half engaged during the hours set apart for extra series shooting, although the meeting was cut down to three days instead of four.

The men would not waste time or money trying for the prizes offered, and they were quite right.

How to improve this? My idea is, the Council do not give half enough display to the gifts they receive or pay sufficient attention to the donors.

I would advocate that the prizes be sought for early in the season, and all entered with the name of the donors in the programme, and that all who give prizes above a certain value be given a free ad. somewhere in the programme.

Merchants cannot always be expected to be contributing without receiving some return. It would, however, pay many of them to give handsomely for a good advertisement.

I would advocate having all the prizes on the ground before the meeting opened, in the exhibition tent especially set apart for them, each prize labelled with the names of the various firms or individuals from whom received, and I would

have invitations sent to every one of them for the "At Home." Let them see their gifts, and what others have done. Those who have been backward in coming forward will very soon want to get equal with the others.

4. This should never have been begun, and the sooner it is ended the better. No more certain evidence of the existence of dry rot can be adduced than to find one portion of a body benefiting at the expense of another portion of the same body, while the part despoiled is too indifferent, apathetic, or possibly too much afraid to object. Do not let us lose the lunch, though! It is always one of the most pleasant hours of very pleasant days, and I am sure no one will object to paying for it. Indeed I know several who would prefer to be allowed to do so.

5. To increase the individual membership.

A thing there ought not to be the least difficulty in doing, if gone about in an energetic systematic way. What is everybody's work is unfortunately seldom anyone's, and consequently falls to the ground. I would advocate that a sub-committee of council be appointed to deal with this. That each member of this committee apportion to himself a certain portion of the province, and that he should endeavour to secure the cooperation of at least one officer in every battalion in his district who would undertake to canvass the other officers of his regiment. Not one officer in fifty would refuse if properly approached and the membership might be increased by hundreds. The Montreal brigade ought to furnish 100 members at least.

6. Requires no comment. Very desirable if it can be accomplished, but doubtful unless some new means be devised of interesting the public in the force.

7. Make as much as possible of the At Home, but do not bother about the presentation of prizes. The men do not come prepared for it, will not do so, and will not wait for it if they can get away home before it takes place.

So much for the recommendations. Now for an idea or two I would like to suggest to the consideration of council.

Arrange to give more body to your programme, to keep the competitors more fully employed at the regular matches than at present. If the extra series will suffer by doing so, get up an additional eight or ten targets for extra series, and discontinue interrupting the regular programme for that part of the matches.

Men do not like to travel a long distance at considerable expense, and dawdle away a day or two firing seven shots a day. Every competitor should have at least twenty-one shots in the regular matches to fire every day.

Improve your office staffs. The statistical department is desperately slow, and not exceedingly correct although so slow.

I know it is difficult to interfere with so old, so true and faithful a friend to the

association as the present statistical officer but the exigency of the case demands it. It is absurd that the results of a match finished at two o'clock cannot be announced before six o'clock, yet such has been the case, and men have had to leave town both this year and last without their prizes on account of this dilatoriness.

I assume that an improvement in the statistical branch would enable the treasurer to act with greater despatch, and therefore assume that the delay in paying the prizes would be righted by a change in the other office.

Though I have not written all I had in mind I shall stop here as I fear I have taken up too much space already. I may, however, resume in a later issue.

MUSKET.

VOLUNTEER CYCLING.

At a meeting of the committee appointed by the donors of the Volunteer Cyclists' Challenge Cup, which has been competed for over a distance of one hundred miles, held recently the claims of the competing teams, of which eight entered, were considered, and the ride performed by B Troop (Captain R. E. Phillips), of the 26th Middlesex (Cyclist) R. V., in 9 hrs. 55 mins. 50 secs., was fully substantiated. This being the fastest time by upwards of an hour, the committee awarded the cup to the B Troop team. Each rider was dressed in marching order, and carried a rifle, bayonet, cape, and weight of 10 lbs. to represent ammunition. In the opinion of the committee the ride was an exceedingly good one. Several alterations in the conditions of the competition for next year were decided upon. Amongst these, the following are the most important: Distance to be 80 miles instead of 100 miles; no ride to be performed on Sunday; unlimited number of entries by a team allowed; that portion of the Great North Road between Hitchen and Peterborough is barred; only Cyclist Volunteers who have made themselves "efficient" in 1892 may ride; spare men are allowed in fixed proportions, according to the strength of the team. The committee for next year is composed of Lieut.-Colonel A. R. Savile, Commanding 26th Middlesex (Cyclist) R.V., Major E. J. A. Balfour, London Scottish R.V., and Major T. Knox Holmes, late Royal Bucks Yeomanry. The cup will be presented to the winning team at the annual dinner of the 26th Middlesex (Cyclist) R.V. — *Volunteer Service Gazette*.

Admiral Montt, who is now President-elect of Chili by the unanimous vote of the electors, was 26 years at sea as a naval officer, rising through all the grades — cadet in 1858, midshipman in 1861, lieutenant in 1865, commander in 1873, captain in 1877, full captain in 1881, and now vice admiral, and, by virtue of the Presidency, Admiral of Chili.