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A DOUBLE NUMBER.

In order that the record of the D. R. A. meeting may be complete in one paper, we have substituted this double number for the two which in ordinary course would have been issued on the 16th and 17th of September. Advisable in any case, this has been made necessary by unavoidable delay in preparation of the statistics.

THE DOMINION RIFLE MEETING.

The officers of the Dominion Rifle Association well deserve the congratulations received from all quarters upon the success of the prize meeting just held, and which was in every respect the best in the history of the Association. Well planned arrangements; an able staff of range officers and office assistants; an intelligent body of competitors ready and willing to observe the rules, and pleasant weather which offered no temptation to shirk, all contributed to ensure the pronounced general success. The one respect in which a change seems most to be desired, is in the time of the meeting, which has been found all too short for the purpose. In deference to the wishes of some more pressed for time than the great body of the competitors the meeting has been crowded into four days, according to programme, but last year and this the necessity for more time has been very apparent. Not only are many good riflemen handicapped by the unusual amount of shooting allotted to each day, but their appointments are so close as to preclude the social intercourse and renewal of old friendships which have in the past properly formed a prominent feature of the annual gatherings at Ottawa. An extra half day could be simply provided for by having the first hundred shoot the final test for Bisley on Friday morning, and as there are no prizes in connection with this event (for the London Merchants' Cup Match could be shot as handily in connection with the Governor General's), this would not interfere with the formal presentation ceremony on Thursday evening, whilst all the competitors are necessarily still in town.

Like the time of the meeting, the prize lists were very fine while they lasted, but they did not last long enough to reward some scoring well worthy of a place on the honour roll. If the funds will not permit of an increase in the total amount, it would, we think, meet with general approval if for instance \$4 were made the minimum prize in those matches where \$5 is now the limit, and a few additional prizes thus created. Perhaps a small reduction could be made all down the list, but it would not be advisable to materially reduce the top prizes. The men who make the best scores in the field of four hundred marksmen met at Rideau deserve substantial recognition in each match. But the scores "counted out" are too good to go unrewarded. In connection with this subject of prize money, we wish to

emphasize the fact that rifle shooting is not and cannot be a money making business; and to protest against the too great prominence given by the press and public to the dollars won, without any regard to the significance of the victory. It is because shooting is a very expensive pastime in the preliminary practice as well as in the entry fees and travelling expenses connected with a central meeting, that the numerous money prizes are necessary as a guarantee of some small compensation to those who compete against such great odds for the higher honours and the place on the Bisley team which it is the hope of every rifleman to eventually obtain. If only the money were at stake, the Dominion meeting would be a very small affair. And it is a matter of reproach that the riflemen's achievements receive so very little notice in the press and consequently from the public of their various localities—an inattention strongly in contrast with the lavish notices given to other far less deserving branches of sport.

This apathy on the part of the public is one great reason why the prize winners refuse or neglect to take part in the formal presentations. They know that the attendance will be small, and that those who do go out of curiosity to find out what all the shooting and prize lists mean, will leave the hall just about as wise as when they entered, and not very likely to repeat the visit. It remains for some one yet to discover a plan of interesting the public in these presentations, and the winners may then be trusted to properly take their part. Perhaps a promenade concert in connection with the presentation event, and an attempt at a lucid and brief explanation of the significance of each match for which the prizes are presented in the intervals of the music, would not be a bad idea for a beginning.

The announcement that an Ottawa citizen has set the good example of starting a prize fund for the further encouragement of Nursery shots, will be received with general interest, not to say pleasure, especially as it has long been felt that the good people of the Capital do not display at all that interest which should be taken in such an event as the Dominion rifle gathering. Their apathy is all the harder to understand when it is remembered that the Ottawa riflemen long since won, and continuously hold by their prowess, a place second to those of no city in the Dominion. The fact that the proposed new prizes are to be for Nursery team aggregates, should help to increase the attendance of new shots.

Should it be thought proper to extend the time of the meeting, and fire the Bisley Match on the Friday morning, we would suggest a change in the conditions, by which a trial at 800 yards would be included in the Bisley aggregate. In place of the second firing over Queen's ranges now prescribed, there might be ten shots at 600 yards and ten at 800; or seven standing at 200, seven at 600, and seven at 800. This would vary the programme, and would further help to place on the team the men best calculated to win honours at Bisley.