

the motion, Lieut. Mitchell said that it was a farce to select men for Bisley from those who stood high in the Snider aggregate, many of whom were indifferent shots with the Martini. (Hear, hear.)

Major Hartt said the riflemen of New Brunswick had unanimously passed a resolution urging the D.R.A. to adopt the Martini exclusively in the Ottawa matches.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Capt. Hartt, St. John, wanted to know about the system of inspecting the markers in the butts.

Lieut.-Col. White replied that the markers were superintended by the Assistant-Commissioner of the Dominion Police, who was aided by two non-commissioned officers, and most faithfully discharged the duties of inspection. This was the general opinion of the meeting.

Capt. Rogers said he thought the rule requiring Canadian representative to Bisley to be properly uniformed before leaving Canada should be rigidly enforced. He thought the inspecting officer at Montreal should have the power to rule any man off the team who had not his proper dress. Some men had gone to England with outfits which no pawnbroker would buy for a shilling. (Laughter.)

Major Macdonald, 48th, said some Bisley competitors had only been gazetted as officers a week or two before the departure of the team, and consequently could not procure their uniforms in time, but immediately on arriving in England they did so, and in all the competitions they appeared properly uniformed. (Applause.) He noticed an improvement at Bisley, and that was that sighting and blow-off shots were included on the one ticket. He moved, seconded by Captain Rogers, "That sighting-shot and blow-off tickets be dispensed with, and the cost of sighting-shots and blow-off shots be included in the entrance moneys, one sighting-shot to be taken at each range, the blow-off shot to be optional."

The motion was adopted.

Then there was some complaint about the squadding. Some marksmen said they had been squadded with the same men all through.

Lieut. Mitchell, 12th: "Well, I was squadded with my brother all day, but as he's from Winnipeg and I from Toronto it's no proof of improper squadding." (Laughter.)

Lieut.-Col. White: "Of course nobody can keep the run of shooting families that scatter all over Canada." (More laughter.)

It was decided to count all shots through the target upon their merit, irrespective of indications of ricochet other than the throwing of dust into the butts. Also to start the Rideau match on the following afternoon early enough to allow competitors ticketed for 6.10 p.m. to fire at 4.10 p.m.

On the suggestion of Major MacDonald it was decided to have the secretary, Lieut.-Col. Bacon, petition the Council of the National Rifle Association to have the extra series at Bisley

shot during the first week of the meeting, which would give competitors the benefit of practice at long range before the Kolapore match came off. The meeting then adjourned.

NOTES.

An unfortunate accident happened on the afternoon of the first day. Capt. Stevens, of the 66th, was cocking his 38 calibre Smith and Wesson, preparatory to taking his first shot in the revolver match, when the hammer slipped and the weapon discharged. The 25-yard stake to his left was scarred by the bullet, which, glancing off, struck Major Weston, of the same battalion, who was standing near by, in the calf of the left leg. The bullet ploughed downwards alongside the bone, and all but came through the skin six or eight inches below the point of entry, and near the ankle joint in front. The Major sat down, grasped his leg to staunch the flow of blood, and took the matter as coolly as possible while Surgeon March, 8th Cavalry, who was on the range as a competitor, was sent for in haste, and examined and bandaged up the wound. The word soon went round that Major Weston had been shot and scores of friends came running to the spot, for the Major is one of the most popular officers in the service. "Where did the bullet strike," asked an anxious officer of Lieutenant McLean, who was in charge of the revolver range? "Just here," replied Major Weston, who had overheard the enquiry, and coolly drawing up the other leg he pointed to the corresponding spot on the uninjured member and traced the course of the bullet down to the ankle. Dr. Hurdman suggested cutting the leg of the Major's nether garment. "Well, do so"; said the stoical soldier from the seaside "but, rip from the inside of the seam, and save the trousers, old fellow." They obeyed his directions, the Major himself seemingly the least concerned of the crowd, and chatting with his brother officers all the while. Then the wound was bandaged and Major Weston was taken away in a cab to the Protestant Hospital, where the bullet was extracted. He remained there for several days, under the professional care of Sir James Grant, M.D., returning to Halifax when sufficiently recovered to travel.

When Petty Officers Isaacs and Sullivan, of H. M. S., Blake, left for Quebec to rejoin their ship, they were accompanied to the station by a number of riflemen and others in the city with whom they have become firm friends. Isaacs and Sullivan are typical tars, and by their gentlemanly bearing delighted everybody in town who came in contact with them. If they return to Ottawa next year they may be sure of a hearty welcome. In the match they were handicapped by having to use the Snider, a weapon with which they are unfamiliar, and if unfortunately the old gun figures in the

competitions next year, in order to give the Regulars a chance, Sniders should be served out to them a few weeks before the Ottawa meet. Despite the fact that the Snider was a new rifle to both men, Isaacs managed to "get there" in the Nursery match in gallant style, capturing first prize. He expressed a wish that instead of the money, \$20, being given to him it should be extended to obtain a prize in kind. Accordingly Col. Bacon, secretary of the D. R. A., assisted them to procure a handsome plated cup and had it suitably inscribed with the name of the winner.

In mentioning their arrival, the *faux pas* of the Ottawa *Free Press* in its issue of 29th August will not be soon forgotten. A reporter who will publish such galling inaccuracies deserves the strongest censure.

Three or four competitors at the 200 yards range of the Dominion of Canada, in which kneeling was permissible, adopted the device of carrying the rifle sling under the thigh, which gave them a tremendous grip on their weapons. The practice may be a legitimate one, but is not one that could be readily adopted on active service, and should therefore be disallowed. An authoritative judgement should be given on this point and also on that as to whether a competitor (in uniform) be permitted to fire with the butt of his rifle *inside* his tunic, in a match in which uniform is not obligatory.

One of the chief attractions of the meeting was the "at Home" given by Mrs. Kirkpatrick, wife of Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick; it was a brilliant success, being attended by upwards of four hundred of the Capital's leading citizens. The scenes around the tented field were very animated and beautiful to look at. The visiting riflemen in their varied uniforms flitted around through the immense crowd of visitors which assembled near the president's marquee, and the band of the Governor-General's Foot Guards discoursed choice selections while the great social event was in progress. At the close of the reception the Lieutenant-Governor delivered a short speech in which he complimented the D. R. A. for the immense success of this year's matches. The prize-winners were paraded by Major Sims, V. R. C., and were then formally presented with their prizes.

It is to be regretted that the Executive thought it unnecessary to appoint a surgeon for duty during the matches, and their action in this matter was severely commented on. It appears that a medical officer has been for many years in attendance, but that not a single accident took place during that time, so that latterly the appointment was dropped. Had the accident to Major Weston been of a more serious nature, and no surgeon happened to be on the range, the results might have been most deplorable. After the first day, however, Assistant-Surgeon Grant, G. G. F. G., was appointed, and was on duty until the end of the meeting.