

News of the Service.

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AT THE RANGES.

Three Annual Prize Meetings of Important Rifle Associations

Continued.

The Big D. R. A. Meeting.

This is how the *Empire* correspondent describes the opening day of the D. R. A. meeting Monday August, 27th:—Late this afternoon a tremendous storm passed over the D.R.A. camp on the banks of the Rideau. The like of it has never been previously seen in the history of the association. It was not caused by atmospheric condition; it was a storm of indignation; a storm in which there were many words expended, and cuss words at that. To-night on the camp ground, but especially in the Russell house rotunda, scores of competitors are discussing the situation, and the excitement is intense.

The origin of the trouble appears to be as follows: Both at the Montreal and Toronto rifle meetings there were complaints about the ammunition. It was of '94 make, and is generally conceded to be much inferior to that produced by the Government factory in 1893. In fact, expert shots say that last year's make could not be improved upon. Early this morning the executive of the association met and appointed the following gentlemen as the Match Committee to conduct the meeting: Major Mason, of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, chairman; Major Sam Hughes, M.P., Lindsay; Major Weston, Halifax Rifles; Major Blacklock, Royal Scots, Montreal, and Capt. Hartt, St. John. At the same time a small committee of expert shots was chosen to report upon the quality of the '94 ammunition to be used to-day. Meanwhile the Deputy Minister of Militia was requested to supply a sufficient quantity of the make of 1893, in the event of the decision being reached to discard the '94 ammunition. Between 5 and 6 o'clock a formidable looking protest, signed by about 100 competitors, was lodged with the executive, asking that the Macdougall Challenge Cup match, the last of the day, be shot over again, on the ground that certain competitors had substituted the ammunition of '93 for that of '94, thereby giving them a great advantage over those

who had fired the cartridges furnished by the association. Now the rule under this head is specific; it says that "in all matches none but the ammunition issued by the D.R.A. shall be used or allowed." There is

NO LOOPHOLE OF ESCAPE.

A competitor must use the ammunition furnished to him by the association; if he contravenes the rule, he renders himself liable to expulsion from the matches. It is in regard to this protest that the present row prevails, and over which there is so much controversy to-night. Unquestionably the ammunition was bad, some of the best shots having made miserable scores at the 600 yards range, and in nearly every case where they paid 50 cents for challenging, the shot was found not to be in the target. It is singular, however, that proof of the substitution of 1893 ammunition for 1894 is not forthcoming in a single case, and the Executive Committee are, therefore, greatly puzzled what to do. Wrappers with the 1893 stamps upon them have been picked up on the range. But as the Metropolitan Association's matches were fired here a week ago, when 1893 ammunition was used, and there has been not a drop of rain since, the presence of 1893 ammunition wrappers is easily accounted for. The men who are asking for the match to be fired over again are the ones who made the poor scores at 600 yards, they having, as a rule, made good scores at 400. It is said by some competitors, who believe in the integrity of their fellows, that it evinces a very unsportsmanlike trait to raise this protest for the purpose of having another trial. "Why can't they take their medicine like little men, and stand the consequence of their bad shooting?" remarked a Toronto rifleman to *The Empire* to-night. "I made poor shooting in the Hamilton Powder Company's match, and yet I did not blame the ammunition, and ask for a second trial. If the Executive decide that the Macdougall match be shot over again, they establish a dangerous precedent; where it will end no one knows. In common fairness, if the match is to be refired, they ought to allow us to shoot all the matches over again."

The Executive had a meeting to-night to discuss the situation, but no decision was reached. It was agreed to sleep on it and meet for final decision at 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. As the scores now stand in this match Lieut. Hutcheson, of the 43rd Battalion, is cup winner.

The weather taken on the whole to-day has not been favorable; the sky was overcast all day and the light very trying. Some competitors say they had difficulty in distinguishing the barley-corn on their rifles, while the black and white of the targets would blur with the peculiar light.

The Nursery fell to Gunner Sharpe, of Montreal, while the top man in the Hamilton Powder Company match was Capt. R. J. Spearing, of Sherbrooke. He made a possible.

The following are the day's scores, the Macdougall list being withheld pending the Executive's decision:

NURSEY MATCH.

Open to members of the association who have not at any previous meeting of the D.R.A. won a prize of \$5 or upwards, exclusive of team or extra series prizes; five rounds at 500 yards.

\$20	Gunner T Sharp, M G A.....	23
	\$10 prizes.	
	H H Wooten, 42.....	23
	H Westmore, 63rd.....	22
	\$8 prizes.	
	M Blanchard, B C B G A.....	22
	F Hunt, R C A.....	22
	Sergt H M Knight, Liverpool R N...	22
	Pte J Moreland, 29th.....	22
	\$6 prizes.	
	Sergt D Garson, 13.....	22
	Gunner McRobbie, B C B G A.....	22
	Pte E Limpert, 29th.....	21
	Staff-Sergt A Rose, 48th.....	21
	Pte W Mills, 3rd Vics.....	21
	\$5 prizes.	
	Pte C Spencer, 13th.....	21
	J S Stevenson, O R C.....	21
	Lieut J C Scriver, 6th Cavalry.....	21
	Sergt J Davidson, 47th.....	20
	Lieut J E Astell, 54th.....	20
	Capt F Moore, P E I GA.....	20
	Pte E E McNutt, 78th.....	20
	Pte H B Heller, 29th.....	20
	Pte A T Pearson, 43rd.....	19
	Corp Armstrong, 10th R G.....	19
	\$4 prizes.	
	Pte L C Scaats, 29th.....	19
	Sergt Ferguson, 48th.....	19
	Pte J M Stobo, 8th.....	19
	Sergt-Major Morgans, 14th.....	19
	Capt J Suckling, 78th.....	19
	Bandmaster Hanson, 63rd.....	19
	Pte W Drysdale, 6th Fusiliers.....	19
	Pte J Shaw, 12th.....	19
	Sergt C C Roger, G G F G.....	18
	Gunner B B Bennet, M G A.....	18
	Sergt F Rainbault, R C A.....	18
	Pte F G Gray, G G F G.....	18
	Pte A S Black, 78th.....	18
	Pte E E English, 77th.....	18
	Corp Tyres, 10th R G.....	18
	\$3 prizes.	
	Staff-Sergt E Cleveland, 54th.....	18
	Pte G Foster, 45th.....	17
	Bandsman R Magness, 13th.....	17
	Sergt A Graham, 48th.....	17
	Sergt F Christie, 93rd.....	17
	Pte M D Campbell, 45th.....	17
	Capt J C Ponsford, R L.....	17
	Major W Henderson, 48th.....	17
	Petty Officer Beal, H M S Blake.....	17
	Lieut-Col G R Stark, 3rd Vics.....	17
	Corp C E Sleemans, 1st B F A.....	16
	Pte S Dawson, G G F G.....	16
	Lieut G B Hall, 5th Dragoons.....	16
	Capt A T Kirkpatrick, 14th.....	16
	Lieut-Col J J Tucker, 62nd.....	16
	Pte H Kerr, 48th.....	16
	Lieut J M McIntyre, 74th.....	16
	Lieut Shillinglow, B I Co.....	16
	Sergt J G Melvin, H G A.....	15
	Pte Taylor, 90th.....	15
	Pte M McElmer, 93rd.....	15
	Pte A W Mishaw, 48th.....	15
	Sergt W Davidson, 48th.....	15
	Lergt W McInnes, 50th.....	15
	Sergt J McClellenn, 3rd Vics.....	15
	One 15 counted out.	

HAMILTON POWDER COMPANY MATCH.

Open to members; seven rounds at 500 yards; possible 35 points. Last year there were four full scores made, and only one 30 came into the prize list.

\$20	Capt R J Spearing, 53rd.....	35
17	Bomb W Gould, 1st B F A.....	34
14	Lieut Forbes, 63rd.....	34
12	Corp McVitty, 10th R G.....	34
12	Corp Cox, King's Cavalry.....	34
12	Lieut T Mitchell, 12th.....	33
10	Sergt F Rainbault, R C A.....	33