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Topics of the Week.

We must ask our readers to kindly overlook the unavoidable delay which has occurred in the issue of this number, which we fear will not be in their hands until several days after the nominal date of publication. Arrangements are being made to obviate the possibility of similar delay in the future, our aim being to have the paper in the hands of the majority of our readers on Thursday of each week.

Those of our readers not so particularly interested in rifle shooting as to appreciate the arrays of scores which have lately occupied the columns of this paper, will doubtless hail with satisfaction the termination of the season of shooting activity, with the close of the D. R. A. meeting. So that the scores will not after this week monopolize so much of our limited space.

The Dominion Rifle meeting was a great success, not alone in numbers, which were not quite up to what had been expected, but in management, and in the undoubted and freely expressed satisfaction of the competitors at the treatment accorded them. The weather, too, was delightful, albeit a trifle trying on the judging powers of the riflemen. The Snider ammunition gave eminent satisfaction, the general verdict being a declaration of its superiority over any previously used, even of English manufacture.

•With a due sense of gratitude for having been accorded the well earned privilege of using ammunition with which they might reasonably hope to hit the targets, the competitors at their annual business meeting passed a cordial vote of thanks to the Minister of Militia for having at length caused effect to be given to their suggestions concerning alteration in the shape of the bullet. In the same resolution special thanks were also accorded Major H. F. Perley, of the Headquarters Staff, for the untiring and intelligent interest he had displayed in securing a solution of the vexed question of the cause of inferiority. The compliment was well deserved, for Major Perley has indeed been the moving spirit in all the reforms which have been effected at the factory.

It was pleasant to hear the competitors take back all the hard things they have been saying of the Snider rifle for some years past. One and all now express perfect satisfaction with the weapon, and many even urged its re-adoption by the D. R. A. for 600 yards shooting, in place of the Martini, this year installed in complete possession of that range. In this connection the very sensible suggestion was made that while it was desirable to encourage Martini shooting and to make the Dominion

riflemen familiar with this more modern weapon, the use of the two should not be called for for the same day, but that a separate day or days should be set apart for Martini shooting.

A few of the competitors vigorously pleaded for the reintroduction of the sighting shot system, urging that the present plan of allowing sighters to be obtained in the extra series worked unfairly, inasmuch as all could not find opportunity to shoot in the series before the regular matches. A seemingly more popular proposal was subsequently made, this being that pool shooting should take the place of a portion of the extra matches, and as the time occupied in firing a couple of pool tickets would be much less than in completing a score in the series, a much larger number would have opportunities for firing.

A rather ludicrous incident in connection with the meeting occurred through the query as to how the price of Martini ammunition came to be 25 cents for ten rounds, instead of 20 cents, as usually charged by the association. The question caused a hurried consultation amongst the governors, after which the chairman of the meeting, Lt. Col. White (chief of the executive), announced that the increase had been made by mistake, and that for the rest of the meeting the old price would rule. Inquiry as to the quantity sold up to this reduction, shows that the mistake netted the association no less than sixty dollars, which the competitors had paid out willingly in blind confidence that it must be right to make the increased charge or otherwise it would not have been done. Several had gently touched upon the point at the ammunition wicket, but received no satisfaction there.

The secretary, Lieut. Col. Bacon, earned no little gratitude by introducing this year the system of timing extra series tickets so that a man could ascertain exactly when he would be allowed to shoot at any particular place, and thus relieve himself of the tedious waiting round for a chance, so unpopular in other years. The range officer at each of the series was provided with a book in which he entered the number of the ticket opposite the time allotted for it to be shot, and the ticket was then returned to the competitor after having been marked with the time when he might claim his right to shoot. The trial worked admirably, and this timing will probably become a permanent feature of the meetings.

The Council of the National Rifle Association have come to the conclusion that the most eligible of the sites available for the New Wimbledon are those on the Berkshire Downs and at Cannock Chase, and purpose to obtain further information about these two sites (providing the freehold of the latter can be obtained), with a view to coming to a final decision about them. A special meeting of the Council will be held on the 25th inst. for the purpose of finally deciding on the site. It is pretty well understood that the high price asked for ground in the immediate neighbourhood of London renders the acquisition of a range, say at Staines, quite out of the question, in the opinion of the Council