

THE NORTH-WEST RIFLE LEAGUE.

The North-West Rifle League, to which reference was made in these columns a few weeks ago, has been duly organized, with Mr. T. W. Taylor as president; Mr. C. N. Mitchell treasurer, and Mr. K. Graburn secretary. The rules and regulations are as follows:—

Teams to be composed of five (5) members of any association, and may be altogether militiamen or civilians, or partly composed of both. Each association may enter as many teams as desired. It is not necessary to have the same men on the team each match, but when a man once fires on a team, he cannot fire on any other the same season.

The ranges will be at such distances as may be determined by the Executive.

Position at 200 yards, standing or kneeling; at all other distances, in any position with head to target.

Rifles.—The Snider, long or short, and the Carbine.

The matches to be fired every alternate Saturday afternoon (except the 5th September) during the season, commencing on Saturday the 16th May.

Each score sheet to show the detailed shooting of each competitor, and to be vouched for by the signature of the senior officer or member of the association present throughout the shooting, and to be forwarded to the secretary, Mr. K. Graburn, Dominion Lands Office, Winnipeg.

The senior officer, or if no officer is present, then any one who may be selected by the members present, will take charge of the shooting; whose duty it will be to see that the rules are carried out and the conditions of the competitions strictly enforced. The name of each member of a team to be handed in or made known to the Range Officer before commencing firing—after the first shot no change in a team to be made.

The fee for entering each team for the whole series of matches to be \$5.00, payable in advance to the secretary.

The full amount received for entrance fees (less current expenses) to be expended in the purchase of such prizes (one for every four teams entered) and to be awarded in order of merit to the highest aggregates of any five (5) of the fortnightly competitions. Teams representing Winnipeg shall only be eligible to win one team prize.

The D. R. A. rules will govern in all cases not provided for in the foregoing.

The object of the League is especially for the purpose of encouraging rifle shooting, and to foster a desire amongst the younger shots to strive to obtain such proficiency as will enable them to take rank as first-class shots.

The officers of the League shall consist of a President, Secretary and a Treasurer, who will also act as the Executive of the League.

THE N. R. A.

The winter general meeting of the members of the National Rifle Association was held on the 26th February. Brigadier-General Lord Wantage, V.C., K.C.B., the Chairman of the Council, presiding, in the absence of the Duke of Cambridge, President of the Association. In presenting the report of the Council the Chairman spoke in the most hopeful terms of the prospects of the Association. Having completed four years' service as Chairman he had placed his resignation in the hands of the Council, and Lord Waldegrave, a well-known rifle shot and officer in a prominent Metropolitan volunteer corps, had consented to take the position. He referred to the two changes in the Secretaryship during the year, first Mr. Humphry and then Lieut.-Col. Marsden having been compelled, owing to private reasons, to resign, and their successor being Col. Mackinnon, the present Secretary. He announced an increase in the target accommodation and a general improvement in the grounds at Bisley.

Quartermaster Gratwicke very freely criticised the position of affairs as shown by the report, and questioned whether there was any real economy in doing with the partial services of a secretary, when the whole time of such an officer might be profitably employed in endeavouring to keep the Association before the public, and to induce subscriptions. The annual subscriptions had steadily decreased until in 1890 they were only £522 or £200 less than seven years ago. He considered the expenses of management were much too great. He pointed out that while the Martini shots paid £3,000 a year in excess of the Martini prizes, the small-bore shots drew £150 more than they paid—a discrimination against the service rifle which should not continue. In conclusion he advocated a re-arrangement of the programme, so that all the principal matches might be finished the first week, and the rest of the shooting disposed of in three days of the second week.

Lieut. Heath urged that the use of orthoptics should still be allowed. Sergt. Fulton also rose to speak in favour of orthoptics, but was interrupted by the Chairman, who amidst applause stated that the Council had resolved to allow their use to be continued.

When the time came for election of members to fill vacancies on the Council, the long-threatened storm broke. In amendment to a motion made on behalf of the Council to elect Col. Villiers, Col. Bargrave Deane was proposed. A spirited discussion followed, during which Sir Henry Halford stated that the Council would have to treat the rejection of their candidate as a vote of want of confidence. A show of hands being called for, 33 members declared for Col. Villiers and 27 for Col. Deane. A poll was then demanded on behalf of the latter.

Quartermaster Gratwicke was then proposed as against Lord Lathom, one of the members retiring in rotation, but seeking re-election. Instead of Mr. Gratwicke (who is Secretary of the English Twenty), Major Thorburn (the Captain of the Scottish Twenty) was proposed, the Council seemingly accepting Major Thorburn as a compromise. A show of hands resulted in 34 votes for Mr. Gratwicke, 27 for Lord Lathom and 20 for Major Thorburn. A poll was then demanded. The result of both polls, in which every member of the association has the right to cast a written ballot, will be announced at an adjourned meeting to be held as soon as possible.

Gleanings.

With the view of obviating the necessity for markers at rifle ranges, and thus doing away with the elements of danger, delay, and uncertainty, an Australian, Mr. A. T. M. Johnson, of Melbourne, has invented a new automatic signalling target. The face of the target consists of rings divided into a total of twenty-three separate moving pieces or sections, the back of each section being attached to oblique oscillating levers connected with a horizontal balancing bar. When any of the sections are struck the levers oscillate, and, in so doing, raise the horizontal bar running horizontally above it. This latter, being forced up, releases a signalling lever, in which is fixed a signalling disc, which instantly appears in view. Each section of the target has a different signalling disc, so that it is at once seen from the firing point where the bullet has struck. After remaining in sight for a few seconds, the lever with the disc turns to its place, and the target is ready for the next shot. There are also two attachments which can be fitted to the target. The first shows the position of the shot by means of a recording instrument placed at the firing point and connected up electrically with the target; the second is an arrangement by which each shot is registered on a roll of paper placed inside the target, and this roll can be compared with the manual record at the end of the practice.