

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Inter Ocean* has the following description of the Government Works at Rock Island:

Rock Island is of irregular shape, about two miles and a half in length, and three fourths of a mile wide. The main channel of the Mississippi river, half a mile wide, lies between the island and the Iowa shore. On the south side, between the island and the Illinois shore, the channel is only one-eighth of a mile wide. The foot of the island between the thriving cities of Davenport and Rock Island, is a limestone bluff, on which once stood Fort *San Carlos*, a defence against Indians and a military post in the early settlement of the country. This greater part of the island has never passed from the possession of the Government. It has a surface of 1,000 acres, lies above the high water, its shores protected by rocky ledges.

The present policy of the national Government is to consolidate the arsenals of the country into two grand establishments, one on the Atlantic slope, and the other of larger proportions, in a central position on the Mississippi river; and for the latter Rock Island has been selected.

Though recommended in 1850 as a suitable point for an arsenal, the use of the island for this purpose was not decided upon until 1852. In 1866 a commission was appointed, of which General Schofield was President, to settle points of proprietorship as to the water power, and to secure its title.

The question of title satisfactorily adjusted the first work undertaken was to develop the water power. For this purpose a dam of solid masonry was constructed, imbedded in the base rock, twenty one feet high, eight feet thick at the base and four at the top supported by heavy counterforts. This dam commences on the Illinois shore, in the upper part of Moline, and extends down the channel 1,900 feet.

It is pierced by thirty seven gates for the supply of water wheels. The dam is continued 1,870 feet further along the channel, by an embankment sixty feet wide at the base, fourteen at the top and twenty three feet high, built of stone with a cement core. This embankment terminates on the Illinois shore, turning the channel towards the centre of the island. To complete the tail race for the Moline power, a canal was cut through the point at the head of the dam, 2,000 feet long, emptying into the channel below the Government dam, now building from the northern extremity of this point across the channel to the island. This canal is 200 feet wide at the top excavated to an average depth of eighteen feet most of the way through the rock.

The greater part of the island is laid out as a magnificent public park.

Through the centre of the island, from end to end runs Main avenue, sixteen feet wide, which is the site for the workshops. Between Main and North avenues are located the armory buildings, for the manufacture of muskets, pistols, sword and carbines. The central building will be occupied as a forge and rolling mill. Beyond these, also fronting south on Main avenue, are two shops for wood work, and for putting the arms together. Each of the shops will have a frontage of 234 feet and two long wings extending back nearly to North avenue. Both wings and front are sixty feet wide. The forge will be only one story in height; the others will have two stories and a base.

ment. Each shop covers about one acre. In rear of each will be storehouses. These will be devoted to the manufacture of material of war—gun carriages, implements, and equipments, artillery harness, etc. Altogether it will be seen that there are thirty five acres of floor space in the ten shops and ten storehouses named above. Three of these shops are nearly completed and others are rapidly building.

The shops now built are of Joliet stone, roughly dressed, and laid in thick, regular courses. The floors are supported by stone piers and iron columns. The roof frames are of wrought iron and the covering of slate. The buildings are very handsome and massive, but built for service, no attempt having been made at ornament that would not serve a useful purpose.

The motive power of the shops will be the water power of the Government dam above mentioned. Provision is made for the turbine wheels placed between the counterforts of the dam, which are twenty five feet high. These wheels will all connect with a common shaft twelve inches in diameter and 700 feet in length, resting upon the top of the counterforts. The distance from the dam to the furthest shops is three-fourths of a mile.

The work on the dam is now progressing favorably, and it is expected that the shops will be supplied with power from it early in the spring of 1873. When all the shops are built, this will be by far the largest and most complete establishment of the kind in the world.

When driven to its fullest capacity, as in case of war, a force of from 10,000 to 12,000 skilled mechanics will be required.

The streets on the island will be paved and sewered. There will be a wharf for receiving and shipping goods by water. All the shops will be connected by rail with the system of railroads centring here.

The magazines, laboratories, offices, quarters, barracks, and hospital will be located near the centre part of the island, and generally with reference to the shops. Some of these are built, and others will be erected as they may be required. All of them will be in keeping with the general plan of the Arsenal.

There are 1,200 men employed on the work at the present time. An undertaking of such magnitude will of course show but little progress from day to day. The work is in efficient hands, however, and all will be done that is possible for men to do.

The building at the lower end of the island, which forms such a prominent landmark in the cities of Davenport and Rock Island, was built before the adoption of the present comprehensive plans for the Arsenal. It was one of three small arsenals which local influences secured at Columbus, Indianapolis, and this place. It is 180 feet in length, and has a clock tower ninety feet high. The clock has four dials twelve feet in diameter, and is one of the finest in the country. Under the present plans this building will be used as a receiving and issuing store-room.

Besides Colonel Flagler, now in charge of the Arsenal, the following officers of the regular army are at present assigned to this post: Captain J. P. Farley, Lieutenant W. P. Butler, Lieutenant E. M. Wright, and Lieutenant Charles Shaler, Jr.—U. S. Army and Navy *Journal*.

Khalil Cherif Pasha has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.

RIFLE MATCHES.

ANNUAL RIFLE MATCH OF THE 33RD HURON BATTALIONS.

The Annual Rifle Match of the 33rd Battalion came off at Seaforth on Thursday and Friday, 12th and 13th inst. The first day was so wet that very little was done, but by the indefatigable exertions of Captain Murray, who was in charge of the range, and the other officers present, the various matches were completed on Friday. The attendance was small, but the shooting considering the unfavorable weather, was very good. The following are the names of the successful competitors in the various matches.

BATTALION CHALLENGE CUP.

This prize was competed for by five men from each Company. Ranges 200 and 400 yards, five shots at each. The best shot in each Company receiving a prize of \$4, and the best shot in the whole, \$4 additional. As will be seen by the score, No. 3 Company (Seaforth) won the cup, and Private Sparling, of the same Company carried the money prize.

No. 3 Co. (Seaforth.)

	200 yds.	400 yds.	Total.
Capt. Wilson	2334—15	24323—14	29
Lieut. Wilson	3433—16	32232—12	28
Sergt. Campbell	2222—10	02003—5	15
Corp. Menary	32240—11	20230—7	18
Pte. Sparling	4232—13	34442—17	30
	65	55	120

No. 4 Co. (Clinton)

En. Proctor	23223—12	32343—15	27
Sergt. Cook	34323—14	24242—14	28
Pte. Daly	22020—6	00423—9	17
Pte. Robertson	20302—8	00423—5	11
Pte. Masten	33333—15	32334—15	30
	55	45	91

No. 5 Co (Ainleyville.)

Pte. Chapman	22222—10	30242—11	21
Pte. Roddick	03232—10	32022—9	19
Pte. Ainley	23222—11	00004—4	15
Pte. Mpooney	20220—6	32003—8	14
Pte. Wilson	20223—9	33430—13	22
	46	45	113

No. 7 Co. (Porter's Hill.)

Capt. Sheppard	22232—11	32424—15	26
Sgt. McDonald	00332—8	04002—6	14
Sgt. McDougall	03322—10	40430—10	20
Pte. Perdu	20320—7	00000—0	7
Pte. Biggar	22233—12	43330—13	25
	48	44	92

No. 8 Co. (Gorrie.)

Capt. Kane	00002—2	00000—2	2
Corp. Roberts	20022—6	02203—6	13
Pte. Pyke	42322—14	03320—8	22
Pte. Warnock	23022—9	24364—16	25
Pte. Skilling	22232—11	00000—0	11
	42	31	73