

tia in a territorial regiment, but in several cases there are three, while the Irish Rifles have four militia battalions, and the Rifle Regiment and Rifle Brigade five militia battalions each. The Canadian militia stand upon precisely the same footing as the English militia. They are a part of the army of Canada, liable to be called upon at any time to serve in the field. Their position is an honorable one, and their record is without a stain. No change should be made either in their standing or their title.—*The Sun, St. John, N. B.*

New Volunteer Musketry Regulations.

To meet the requirements of the metropolitan Volunteer corps which began their musketry course on Thursday, the first day of the Volunteer year, Lord Methuen approved the immediate announcement of the new scheme of musketry training, which shows many important changes from that which it is to supersede, but which, with the other revised Volunteer regulations, will not be ready for issue till later. The full capitation grant of 35s is paid only for those Infantry Volunteers who pass out of the third or lowest musketry class in each year, and the conditions of this class will now vary considerably from the former terms. The target, reduced in height by 2 feet, is now to be only 4 feet square, the bull's-eye diameter remaining 1 foot, but the centre ring being 2 feet instead of 3. The value of shots in the three divisions is to remain as before; but instead of firing at three ranges (from 100 to 300 yards), 200 yards will be the only range in the class, at which men will fire seven shots standing, seven kneeling, and seven lying down. With the twenty-one shots 84 points may be made, and Volunteers who score 30 and upwards will pass out of the third into the second class, and, so far as musketry goes, will have earned the capitation grant. Those failing to do so much fire the class again, and even a third time on a second failure. In the second class the target is to be left as before, but the 400 yards range will no longer be used, the practice being seven rounds at 500 yards kneeling and at 600 in any military position. Of the possible 56 a man must make at least 30 to pass out of the class. The first class targets are also unaltered, but at each of the ranges (700 and 800 yards) seven shots instead of five have to be fired, and men making 30 out of the 56 will be marksmen, the others remaining first-class shots. To complete the "trained Volunteer's" course the scheme provides for volley firing at 500 yards and combined volley and independent firing at 300; but these distances may be changed to 300 and 200 where ranges do not extend to 500 yards. The recruits are to go through an extensive course of preliminary rifle drill and miniature target practice before going to the ranges, where they will fire seven rounds standing and seven kneeling at 100 yards, and the same at 200, using third-class targets at both distances; also seven kneeling and seven lying down at 500 with first-class targets. Those who with the forty-two shots make 80 points out of the possible 168 will be reckoned first-class recruits: 45 and less than 80, second-class; and less than 45, third-class. Should a range not admit of 500 yards firing, fourteen shots must be fired at 300 yards at a second-class target.

The War Between China and Japan.

The Naval Battle on the Yalu.

At the latest accounts the victorious Japanese army was advancing on Peking and apparently it is hopeless for the disorderly armies of China to resist the splendidly drilled and resolute forces of Japan.

The Japanese have shown themselves to be soldiers in every sense of the word; but the wretched Chinese act like cowards, and seem to have little idea of the modern notions of fighting. They appear to have made little or no progress in military affairs during the last quarter of a century, but still hold to the idea of frightening away the enemy by means of noises and dragon-headed shields.

The New York *World* gives an account of the great naval battle of Yalu, as detailed to its correspondent Mr. James Creelman by Admiral Ito, the commander during the battle. We make the following abstracts:

The result of the battle is the loss of five Chinese men-of-war.

The two fleets met Sept. 17, and the fighting lasted almost five hours. Early in the morning a Japanese fleet of eleven warships and the armed transport steamer Saikio Maru arrived on the west side of Haiyun Island, the first of the islands in the Yellow Sea stretching out from Port Arthur.

This was the order of the fleet:

VAN SQUADRON.

Flagship Yoshimo (Rear Admiral Tsuboi)
Takachiho
Akitsushima,
Naniwa.

MAIN SQUADRON.

Flagship Matsushima (Admiral Ito),
Chiyoda,
Itsukushima, Agaki,
Hashidate, Saikio Maru
(Vice-Admiral Kabayama),
Hiyei,
Fuso.

At about 11.30 o'clock the van signalled smoke in sight on the starboard bow, and a few minutes later a Chinese fleet of fourteen vessels was in full view, spread out in a single line of battle and sailing abreast on a northwest course. There was a good breeze blowing from the north but the sea was not rough.

Admiral Ito signalled to the van to attack the enemy on the right, while he instructed the main squadron to attack the left. At the same time he ordered the Akagi and the Saikio Maru to get on the port side of the main squadron for safety. The presence of two large ironclads in the Chinese fleet convinced the admiral that he would have no manoeuvre under full steam and, by attacking the Chinese on their flanks, break their formation and throw them into confusion.

So the two Japanese squadrons swept on toward the enemy at full speed and the Chinese advanced slowly to meet them. When about three miles away the Chinese opened

fire, and each of the Japanese squadrons changed its course, the van wheeling to the southeast and the main squadron turning south. The plan was to make two circles in opposite directions around the Chinese formation, and so prevent the big ironclads from getting any opportunity to close in and bring their heavy guns to bear.

As the Japanese were advancing on the flanks, it was impossible for the great line of ships to deliver effective volleys. All the shots fell short. The great speed of the Japanese made it impossible for the slower vessels of the enemy to change their line of battle in time. No reply was made to the Chinese fire until the attacking squadrons were within three thousand yards. Then Admiral Ito's squadron opened fire and the van squadron also joined the fight.

As the fleets drew closer together their guns roared from one end of the great battlefield to the other. The ocean shook with the tremendous shock, as the iron storm swept through whirling smoke and flame.

No men could be seen on the upper decks of the Chinese line. The crews were crowded below in true Mongol style. Nor was there any trace of boats on the davits of the Chinese ships. I have heard since that the fleet left all its small boats behind to prevent the men from deserting in the face of the enemy.

At first the Chinese gunnery was fairly accurate, but the wheeling movement of the Japanese on the right and left flanks, combined with the terrific effect of the rapid-fire guns, seemed to throw the line into disorder and demoralize the gunners.

When the rear of the main Japanese squadron was turning the left of the Chinese, the Hiyei was so close to the enemy that to avoid receiving their fire full broadside she left the main squadron and steamed straight at the Chinese line, passing between two large ironclads, the Tangyuen and Laiyuen, or the Kingyuen and Chingyuen.

RIGHT THROUGH THE FIERY GAP

she went, with commander Sakurai on the bridge and all her guns at work, while her heroic crew cheered as two torpedoes, launched a hundred yards away, hissed through the waves and missed her. The enormous batteries of the two ironclads thundered away, and the Hiyei's decks were strewn with dead and dying men as she fled through the dense smoke between the floating iron forts.

She had passed half way through when a shell from one of the battle ships penetrated her side three feet above the water line, shattered the mizzenmast, killed the paymaster, two surgeons, all the medical attendants, spare helmsmen and machine gun ammunition carriers and destroyed the ward room. In a moment the Hiyei was on fire, and as the ship broke through the line and passed to the safety side of the Japanese main squadron her daring captain signalled that