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APPLICATION has been made to us by a Toronto correspondent for information concerning the probable outcome of the report on the condition of the Toronto rifle range, some time ago transmitted to the Militia Department. Upon inquiry we learn that no action has yet been taken, the absence of the Minister causing the matter to be left in abeyance, but it seems most likely that firing will not be prohibited or interrupted next season, whether or not it is decided to eventually close the range.

FOR many years past Capt. Colomb, M.P., has pressed upon the attention of the British Government the great and growing importance of Esquimalt, B.C., as a naval port. Now, says the *Broad Arrow*, that port is springing into its true place by leaps and bounds. There is already a line of steamers between there and New Zealand once a fortnight, and there is to be a subsidized mail line to Japan and China immediately. The port is the headquarters of the navy. It has a dry dock, and coal is there in inexhaustible supply. Lastly, the port is but thirteen or fourteen days from England, and Rear-Admiral Heneage, after an overland journey, has recently hoisted his flag there on board the *Triumph*. Presently we shall hear of a ship being paid off into reserve there, and the crew coming home *via* Canada. It will be seen that, with ships in reserve at Esquimalt and crews that can reach them from England in a fortnight, Great Britain can always maintain superiority in the Pacific, at so cheap a rate that it will be impossible for Russia to compete until she has herself a railway from west to east of Asia. Such a railway is about to be commenced, but though work is to be pushed at both ends it must necessarily take years to make connection.

WHILE favouring the the termination of the practice, in vogue since 1881, of granting a step of rank to all officers on retirement from the British Army, almost regardless of their length of service, the *Broad Arrow* puts in a word on behalf of officers forced to retire by reason of having reached the age limit, and says:—"Thus a colonel, if retired at 55 years of age, might be granted the rank of major-general; a major, if retired at 48, the rank of lieut.-colonel; and a captain, if retired at 45, the rank of major. Similarly, a step of honorary rank might be granted to those officers who are retired on account of age in the higher ranks above that of colonel. We know that many officers do not care about this step on retirement being granted them; indeed some have refused it, but the exceptions are really very few. As we are aware, however, that many wish for it, and cannot avoid being retired for age during next year and subsequent years, it will appear unfair if these officers

who have served so long, and almost given their lives to the army, are not to get a step of honorary rank which, since the Royal Warrant of 1881, has been lavishly granted to officers their juniors in every way."

DURING the past hundred years, France and her people have played such "fantastic tricks before high Heaven" that any form of Government seems now possible. The first Republic, born in blood and terror, began in 1792; then succeeded the Consulate in 1799, prelude to the first Empire in 1804; after this came the Restoration of Legitimacy in 1814, the Elective Monarchy of Orleans in 1830, and the second Republic of 1848; in 1852, by a *coup d'état*, Louis Napoleon seized the crown and founded what he chose to call the Third Empire; the surrender of Sedan gave birth in 1870 to the third and present Republic, which has already elected three Presidents and more than a dozen Ministries; M. Thiers resigned 24th May, 1873, and Marshal MacMahon ruled as President from that date till 30th January, 1879, when M. Grévy came to the Elysée, where M. Sadi-Carnot now succeeds him.

Reminiscences of the Hundredth Regiment.

UNWORTHY and unjust reflections, appearing in the correspondence of the *Montreal Witness*, upon the character of the men who made up the regiment loyally raised in Canada as a contribution towards the defence of the Empire at the critical period when the Indian mutiny broke out, have occasioned a spirited reply from Col. Fletcher, C.M.G., whose letter, addressed to the editor of the same paper, is given in full below. Even were it the fact that a quota of the men who volunteered for the service had given themselves up to drinking habits prior to enlistment, what possible good purpose is to be served by dwelling upon this at the present day, when the records show that these loyal Canadians acquitted themselves on service like brave men and true British soldiers; and comparison with home troops appears to have resulted most creditably to them and satisfactorily to their Canadian well wishers—demonstrating as it did the superior mental and physical standard of the people of the country they represented. "Splendid men—splendid men," Col. Fletcher tells us was the verdict of the Duke of Cambridge when after a few weeks' drill he saw them on parade at Shorncliffe. This was not idle flattery. The splendid men were able to give a good account of themselves in any service in which they might be engaged. Fate had decreed that the existence of the regiment should be uneventful; and we have no record, therefore, of gallant deeds on the field of battle; but the cold figures of the musketry reports in the *United Service Journal* inform us of the good use the Hundredth made of their powder and lead in time of peace—and the importance of these reports lies in the admitted fact that the better the shooting qualities of any regiment the better as a rule are the men in physique, in intelligence, and in general steadiness of character. In the *United Service Journal* of 1861, part III, page 596, there appears a report of General Hay respecting the relative superiority in shooting of the regiments of H.M. army, classified in 1860-61. In the list of one hundred and seventy-eight regiments, the Hundredth Royal Canadians are FIFTH, and this within a little over two years from their