

THE RE-ARMAMENT OF THE LONDON VOLUNTEERS.

Preparations are now being made at the War Office for the early re-armament of the whole of the Volunteer Infantry, numbering about 175,000, with the rifle known as the Martini-Metford, Mark III, or Martini-Enfield. It is expected that the first issue of this weapon will be made to those corps of London and the Home District which have ranges suitable for its use; and with respect to this, inquiry has been recently made of commanding officers. The barrel, which takes the place of the Henry now fitted to the Volunteers' Martini-Henry rifle, is in some respects different to and an improvement on the Metford barrel in the Lee-Metford magazine rifle of the Regular troops, chiefly by a modification of the rifling, in order that the latter may suffer less deterioration from the action of cordite ammunition. The reduction of bore in the new weapon to that of the Lee-Metford, will make one ammunition serve for the rifles of all Infantry—Regular, Militia, and Volunteer; but the Volunteers' weapon will have no magazine. A large number of the new rifles are now ready for issue, and more will be got ready as the Martini-Henrys are called in for the usual triennial examination at Birmingham during the winter months, so that it is probable the shooting of next year will be done entirely with the new weapon. The Martini-Metford will be the fourth rifle issued to the Volunteers since their formation, its predecessors being the muzzle-loading Enfield, the Snider-Enfield breech-loader, and the Martini-Henry.

The weapon referred to above is that which, according to the arrangements made by General Herbert, would have been issued to the whole of the Permanent Force and the City Corps of the Canadian Militia by the end of the year 1895.

It was known officially as the Martini-Metford, Mark III, a designation which has been changed to the more correct name of "Martini-Enfield," by which it will be known in the future.

The Martini-Metford Mark I Rifle was a converted weapon. Mark II (the Rifle with which the R. Reg. of Can. Inf. is now armed) is not, as has been erroneously stated, a converted weapon, but was manufactured in the form in which it was ultimately issued. Both these rifles being provided with the Metford barrel and with the Martini breech-action, were accurately described by the official nomenclature as "Martini-Metford" Rifles. Mark III is a converted rifle retaining the Martini breech-action, but considerably