

THE NEW BAYONET.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

The proposed new bayonet of the British infantry is the same as that supplied to the Irish Constabulary. It is a saw-sword bayonet, that is to say, it has a sword edge and a saw back, while the point is as effective as that of an ordinary bayonet. It is of the same length as the present weapon, but the Martini Henry rifle itself is $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches shorter than the Snider-Enfield, and the total length of the arm as a pike is, therefore, reduced by so much. The Committee in recommending this saw-sword bayonet, appear to have had in view the fact that bayonets will henceforth be less frequently used than in former times as weapons of offence and defence; they desired, therefore, to substitute an instrument of more general utility. The efficiency of the weapon as a sword, as a saw and as a bayonet, was carefully tested. With the sword edge a sheep was cut up into joints; and with the saw back the shinbone of an ox, a Norway spar $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, another of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and a 2 inch balk of very tough dry elm were sawn through. The weapon, fixed to the rifle, was also thrust through a dead sheep with its wool on and wrapped in a greatcoat; and the security of the attachment of the weapon to the rifle was tested by twisting it about inside the sheep, and by driving it six inches through a 1-inch door and allowing it to swing while sticking in the wood. Thus the soldier will have a tool as well as an effective military weapon, and one with which he can clear away wood, cut materials for fascines and gabions; or he can use it, if he likes, as a knife for cutting up his rations.

Among the other recommendations contained in a supplementary report of the Breech-loading Committee is one to the effect that muzzle stoppers should be reintroduced in order to preserve the barrels from rain and dust, and thus to avoid the necessity for too frequent cleaning. In the absence of muzzle stoppers the men have been in the habit of using improvised stoppers of rag or cork, a practice attended with even greater danger than the use of recognized muzzle stoppers. The stopper proposed is of a construction designed by Major Bolton, and as it serves also as a sight protector, it can scarcely fail to be seen should the soldier inadvertently raise his rifle without removing it. The body of the stopper will be steeped in the anti-corrosive composition; and it is to be hoped that all necessity for continual cleaning will henceforth be avoided a practice which really injures arms far more than any reasonable amount of firing. But as the arms must undergo some cleaning, it is proposed to adopt an ebonite muzzle protector, somewhat similar in pattern to that used by many of the Volunteers, which will prevent the contact of the cleaning rod with the rifling. The question of powder has been settled by the adoption of some special Waltham Abbey powder, which is less influenced by damp and less liable to injury by carriage than the present service powder. It shoots rather better than the Curtis and Harvey's powder used during the experiments, and is considerably cheaper. The slings on the new rifle are to be fixed at three places, one at the top band, another in front of the trigger guard, and a third near the toe of the butt. The two upper attachments will usually be employed, but the sling may for the convenience of the soldier on the march be lengthened and fixed to the third point.

The brilliant performances of the Martini Henry rifle at Wimbledon will, no doubt, increase the weight of the Committee's recommendations and will give confidence to the authorities in adopting this weapon and its various adjuncts. There is one point on which we trust some further action will be taken, and that is in the reduction of the length of the cartridge. This may be effected by employing what is known as the "bottlenosed" form of cartridge, the body of which is considerably enlarged, the chambers of the guns being made to correspond. Some experiments which have been made with this description of cartridge have been very encouraging; and there can be no doubt that it is much stronger than the long thin cartridge which have hitherto been generally used. The base is of the service construction, and the body is made, like that of the service cartridge a thin coiled brass, either with or without a paper covering. An internal paper lining will probably be adopted to prevent corrosive action on the brass.

A FEMALE FENIAN'S OATH.—A day or two ago, among other "suspicious" documents found on the person of Patrick Hughes, who was brought before the magistrates at Dublin on a charge of being a Fenian, was the following form of oath, written by a female hand, and signed, "Your sincere friend Nanny Egan":—"I do hereby swear (sic) that I will attend to the utmost of my power all the members of the Fenian Brotherhood which has established in Ireland a good and just cause. I will wash, mend and make, help the sick and wounded in hospital—at the battle fields of America and at the colours of our own native land. Here's to the green fields and Grannel walk, Fenian lads and time to talk. Here's long may the country presume. May Nagle who sold them and Judge Keogh who tried them—may the light of heaven never shine upon them—may the hearthstone of hell be their tombstone (sic) forever!" The precise offence charged against Hughes, who was remanded, was that he threatened to blow up the house of a policeman with whom he had lodged and also said he could get three hundred men in Dublin to blow the heads off all the members of the metropolitan force.

KIDD'S TREASURE FOUND AT LAST.—The St. John, N. B. *Globe* is informed that after a diligent search an army box was dug up last week on Kennebeckasis Island, and was found to be well filled with French gold and silver coins of the times of Louis Philippe. The fortunate finders of this treasure were directed by a dream that was evidently 'not all a dream.' Another party, in whose hands the guiding mineral rod works most sensitively was, it is said, promised a share of the treasure for his assistance, but the spot being found his employees stole a march on him, secured the long hidden wealth, and made off to the United States with it. This rather apocryphal story of the realization of romantic hopes may revive the treasure seeking mania, and many quite little islets whose solitude has never yet been broken, will be subjected to the ruthless attacks of the "pick-axe and shovel men," mayhap our Nova Scotia friends will again visit Oak Island, Chester, and secure those so often sought, over which the troubled spirits of the old buccanners has hitherto kept efficient guard.

According to the *Nouvelles Contemporaines*, the sum of \$5,000 has been placed at the disposal of Colonel Gorlow, the Russian military agent at New York, for experiments on rifles on a new principle.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has produced our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 4lb., 1lb., and 1lb. tin-lined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London. 26-261



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R. W. SHEPHERD,

June 7, 1869.

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