

in the world; better than the French Lebel, the Austrian Mannlicher, the German, the Mauser. Had the judgment of our Board been approved we should have led instead of following in the adoption of the best gun—following how far behind it is impossible to say. America invents arms, Europe adopts them, and when we follow at the tail of the procession it is with the humble idea that we have been very enterprising in waiting for her approval before accepting what has all along been ready at our hand in the workshops of American inventors."

Maxim has received \$850,000 for his last production, the quick-firing gun, in England. The first Maxim essay, the small one-barrelled mitrailleur, has not been a success except in theory, the tremendous discharge of 1,000 shots per minute soon being too much for any single bore, however excellent of design or material. Maxim may be fairly accounted a prospective millionaire, having previously to his ordnance inventions received some \$100,000 in the United States for his electric lighting patents. He is still a young man, and resides at Thurlow Lodge, about twenty miles from London, which he has purchased. The old mansion, surrounded by very fine grounds, is one of the historical English houses, having been the property and home of Lord Thurlow, the great English Chancellor.

The Prussian soldier with the new equipment carried 100 rounds on his person in place of 80 as formerly. At present the greater part of the German infantry have the battalion ammunition wagons drawn by six horses which contain 19,200 rounds, or about 20 per man. In addition to this, each company baggage wagon contains 2,880 cartridges, so that altogether the soldier has with him: On his person, 100 rounds; Battalion ammunition wagon 20 rounds; Company baggage wagon 12 rounds; Total 132 rounds. The four ammunition columns have each 24 wagons, similar to the battalion ammunition wagons, and carry under the latest regulations 65 rounds per man; making a total for each infantry soldier present in an army corps 198 cartridges. The above supplies will be considerably augmented when the new small-bore rifles are introduced.

Much has been recently said as to the destructive effects of high-angle fire, and a proposal has been made to the British Admiralty by Admiral Jasper Selwyns in regard to the best way of dealing with the rebels at Suakim. He advises that instead of attacking these Arabs—sheltered by the bush and rifle pits—which would probably cost valuable lives in driving them out from a position to which they would soon return, to concentrate the fire of the machine guns of the ships, at a high angle, and thus drop the projectiles upon them. Such a fire would doubtless prove even more destructive than the high-angle fire of the Turks which killed so many Russians at Plevna, and would probably give the rebels a wholesome lesson.

The "naval news" read by our forefathers was sometimes of a grimly humorous character. Here is a note from the *Sun* of 8th January, 1798. "An admiral on the Jamaica station, in consequence of the decision of a court-martial upon a captain of a sloop of war, which was that of death, ordered him to be hung up at the yard arm, which sentence was accordingly executed; and, by the admiral's direction, the captain was dressed in his full uniform. We forbear to mention further particulars, as the friends and relatives ought ever to be considered in such unpleasant cases."

A certain number of fortified towns and war citadels in the north of France are to be dismantled of their defences, or razed to the ground, in the course of this year. In the lists marked for demolition are to be found the names of places more than once identified with many interesting events in military annals, such as Aire, 1711 and 1814; Cambrai and its citadel, 1339, 1529, 1794 and 1814; Bouchain, 1711; Douai, 1710-11-12, and lastly, Landrecies, which, after many actions of note in its vicinity, was surrendered to the Duke of York on the 30th April, 1794.

The last census taken of the population of Algeria, in 1886, shows that the colony contains a larger proportion of other European settlers than the French, although nearly half a century has elapsed since the forcible occupation of the country by the latter people. Including the numerous Army, and a multitude of naturalized Jews, there are in all some 280,000 so-called Frenchman, whilst the Spaniards, Portuguese, Maltese and Italian communities reckon to 214,000. There are 3,300,000 natives and Arabs to complete the census.

The Municipal Council of Paris has voted the sum of 10,500 frs, (£460) for distribution in amounts ranging from £12 to £20, amongst the fourteen societies of "Tir et Gymnastique" belonging to the city. A gross sum of £240 out of the grant was given to the Central Society of All France.

The *Kreuz Zeitung*, commenting upon the project of forming a German colonial force, suggests the advisability of raising a strong corps of negro soldiers under the command of German officers. Their military education, recommends the journal, should be completed in the fatherland, and the men sent abroad fully drilled; but, strong objections are urged against the tuition of the sable mercenaries in the noble German language, for, urges the same paper, they might be mistaken by swarthy congeners to be "real natives" from the banks—or beds—of the Rhine and spree.

Conformably with the military laws of 1885, the registry is being made of carrier pigeons owned in the department of the Seine. Over 16,000 birds of this breed are on the Paris list alone, and one fancier is credited with the possession of about 150 thoroughly-trained homers.

The sword worn and most prized by General Sheridan was purchased by him of a brother officer for the small sum of \$3 at the beginning of the war. Thereon was engraved the record of his victories.

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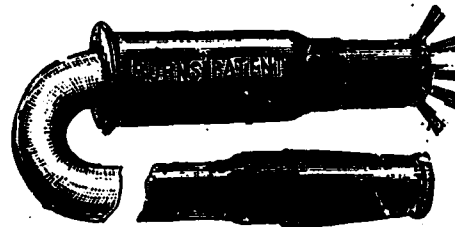
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