

According to an official report received from Wady Halfa, large numbers of the Black troops who originally formed part of the Egyptian army, and afterwards, from one cause or another, went over to the rebels, have latterly deserted the rebel camp and taken refuge at Wady Halfa. Several, however, were recaptured before they reached our lines, and were conducted back to the rebel headquarters, where they were cruelly tortured to death by impalement and burning, the penalty being inflicted as publicly as possible, so as to act as a deterrent to others. The deserters state that the Black troops who are still with the rebel force, besides many of the tribesmen, will surrender at the first opportunity, as they are greatly dispirited by their past sufferings and are unwilling to undergo any further privations. General Grenfell paid a visit to Wady Halfa recently. Colonel Kitchener urges an immediate advance from Saukin upon Tokar, as the friends are, he states, unequal to the task of reducing the rebel camp there.

Towards the realisation of his projects for the increase and entire renovation of the French navy, and to encourage the legislature to grant the extraordinary credit of two hundred million francs, Admiral Aube, the minister of marine, has attempted the construction of a new engine of naval warfare, entirely after his own design and personal directions. It was launched recently at Toulon and placed under the command of Lieutenant Campion, his own son-in-law, preparatory to undergoing a series of experiments which, if proved satisfactory, would justify the addition of fifty similar vessels to the Republican fleet. As it is, wonders are expected from the new model, which is shaped like an ordinary torpedo-boat. It appears nothing more or less than a floating gun-carriage, and with coals and stores on board draws but 6-6 ft. water. She carries a single 6-in. gun of 11 tons weight, on deck, behind a port-hole mantlet of forged plates, that also screens the roundhouse abaft to protect the commander and stersman, whilst by an ingeniously contrived series of scuttles in her decks the gunners are enabled to shelter from the fire of small arms and big guns directed upon them by an enemy. The entire cost of the new vessels with their fittings will not exceed £10,500 each.

A letter from Singapore gives a gloomy picture of the state of affairs in Acheen. It is impossible to foresee when the Dutch-Achinese war will come to an end. The Dutch have nothing like sufficient troops to conquer the natives, and are being compelled to retire to the northern point of Sumatra, and to act strictly on the defensive. Vessels under neutral flags, which used to take a short cut through the narrow waters separating the small islands off the north of Sumatra, have been warned by the Dutch Government to proceed by another route, as the Dutch fleet is no longer able to protect them against the Achinese pirates. The smuggling of rifles, ammunition, and even of artillery, is being actively carried on by the latter, who have thus been enabled to open a regular siege upon the Dutch coast fort at Segli. The sufferings of the Dutch forces from a disease called "beriberi" are intense.

At Kohat, India, Sepoy Aziz Khan, of the native troops, was sentenced by a court-martial to seven years' transportation for disobeying orders and drawing his bayonet and stabbing Lieut. J. A. Brown in the arm. Sir Frederick Roberts has, however, commuted the punishment to imprisonment with hard labor for two years, giving the following as his reasons:—"The prisoner has committed two of the gravest military offences which it is possible for a soldier to commit—he disobeyed an order, and he used his arms against the person of an officer. But I have considered it right to mitigate the punishment which the general court-martial has justly awarded him, because it is proved by the evidence of Lieut. Brown himself that he provoked the assault by hitting the prisoner with his open hand on the back. In rising his hand against a sepoy, Lieut. Brown acted in a most unofficer-like manner, directly tending to the subversion of discipline and deserving of the strongest condemnation. I hereby publicly and severely reprimand Lieut. Brown for his conduct, which no provocation can excuse, and which proves him to be unfit to hold the responsible position of adjutant. Lieut. Brown is now acting adjutant of this regiment; he is deprived of his appointment and will revert to his duty as wing officer."

There are few subjects that should cause more anxiety at present than the arming of our fastest and most powerful merchant steamers in the event of war, so that when they found themselves unable to escape the enemy when conveying the necessary food supply, they could act on the offensive. There are few ironclads even which could swim after being rammed by a vessel of 3,000 tons, with a velocity of seventeen or eighteen knots. For this purpose it would be necessary to have a long-ranged gun of great penetrating power on a turn-table, so that it could be fired within a few degrees of the line of keel, and by the least touch of the helm hit the opposing force either ahead or astern, as she might be. Certain machine guns should also be carried to destroy torpedo boats. These vessels, were war threatened, could be officered by officers on the retired list and Royal Naval Reserve. The armament prepared in our dockyards at present, for some thirty or more merchant steamers, is altogether behind the times. As we have before hinted, the owners of the Cunard, White Star, and other first-class steamship companies, would only be too glad, from patriotic motives, to meet the government half way, the more particularly if the admiralty decided in future to charter only such vessels as had a seventeen knot speed, and were sufficiently well-built to carry one or two long heavy guns. History may yet repeat itself, and our future enemy may find a British merchant vessel quite able and willing to destroy even one of his commissioned ships.

It is announced as probable that the plateau of Courbevoie will be used for military manœuvres, whilst the Champ de Mars is taken up with the Exhibition. However, the selection of this spot is to be the myre carefully studied as the permanent "civilianising" of the Champ de Mars is one of the questions on the order of the day. The rising ground on which Courbevoie lies may be remembered as facing the Arc de Triomphe de E'Toile, beyond Neuilly. It was crowned with a redoubt during the siege of 1870; and when in the following year it was taken by the Versailles troops it became one of the chief centres of attack against the Communists.

A Mandalay correspondent of a Rangoon paper writes that a sepoy has been sentenced to fifty lashes for insulting the religious feelings of the Burmese by scraping some gilding off a pagoda.

The French minister of war has decided that the Kepi, or newly arranged forage cap, shall be worn in future by the foot artillery and engineer corps, as well as the infantry of the line. Another idea is to join mounted sappers to cavalry regiments, for the purpose of cutting down telegraph posts and severing wires, besides breaking railway lines and destroying bridges. The men detached for these duties will carry the necessary tools and appliances, and be subject to the orders of an officer of engineers.

Our Trading Column.

This column is established for the purpose of enabling our friends to exchange, purchase, sell, or otherwise advertise articles they desire either to acquire or dispose of. It is not available for commercial purposes.

The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word. Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, Canadian Militia Gazette, Box 316, Ottawa.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.—Rifle mounted officer's saddlery. Describe and quote prices. Register No. 3.

FOR SALE.—Two pairs of new black silk stars for rifle tunic or patrol badges. Price one dollar per pair. Register No. 6.

FOR SALE.—Officer's Uniform, Lieut.-Col., R. Artillery. Half price, except a few articles bran new. List on application; all in good condition. Register No. 8.

FOR SALE.—Rifle Officer's Uniform; height 5 ft. 9 9 in., chest 37 inches; Tunic Mess-suit, Patrol, Nickled Sword, &c., cheap. List on application. Register No. 10.

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NOTICE.

TENDERS will be received at the Department of Inland Revenue, until noon of Monday, the 3rd January, 1887, from parties desirous of leasing the privilege of ferrying across the river Ottawa, between La Passe, in the Province of Quebec, and Gower Point, in the Province of Ontario, in accordance with the terms and under the conditions set forth in the Regulations, copies of which can be procured from the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa.

Each tender must state the amount which the party tendering is willing to pay per annum for the privilege referred to, which amount will be payable in advance, the terms of the lease being for five years from the 1st May, 1887.

Each tender must be accompanied by a cheque marked "good," on one of the chartered banks doing business at Ottawa, for one-half the amount of the per annum tender. This amount will be credited on account of the first year's rent in the case of the accepted tender, and all other cheques will be returned, except in the event of withdrawals, in which cases no refunds will be made.

All communications must be addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed on the envelope, "Tender" for the La Passe Ferry.

WM. HIMSWORTH,
Secretary.

Department of Inland Revenue,
Ottawa, 14th December, 1886.



NOTICE.

TENDERS will be received at the Department of Inland Revenue until noon of Monday, 3rd January, 1887, from parties desirous of leasing the privilege of ferrying across the River Ottawa, between Fitzroy, in the County of Carleton, in the Province of Ontario, and Onslow, in the County of Pontiac, in the Province of Quebec, in accordance with the terms and under the conditions set forth in the Regulations, copies of which can be procured from the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa.

Each Tender must state the amount which the party tendering is willing to pay per annum for the privilege referred to, which amount will be payable in advance, the terms of the lease being for five years from the 1st May, 1887.

Each Tender must be accompanied by a cheque marked "Good" on one of the chartered Banks doing business at Ottawa, for one-half the amount of the per annum tender. This amount will be credited on account of the first year's rent in the case of the accepted tender, and all other cheques will be returned, except in the event of withdrawals, in which case no refunds will be made.

All communications must be addressed to the undersigned and endorsed on the envelope "Tender for the Quyon Ferry."

WM. HIMSWORTH,
Secretary

Department of Inland Revenue,
Ottawa, 14th December, 1886.



CAPE BRETON RAILWAY.

SECTION GRAND NALRONS TO SYDNEY.

Tender for the Works of Construction.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tenders for Cape Breton Railway," will be received at this office up to noon on Wednesday the 12th day of January, 1887, for certain works of construction.

Plans and profiles will be open for inspection at the office of the Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Government Railways at Ottawa, and also at the office of the Cape Breton Railway at Port Hawksberry, C.B., on and after the 27th day of December, 1886, when the general specifications and form of tender may be obtained upon application.

No tender will be entertained unless on one of the printed forms and all the conditions are complied with.

By order,
A. P. BRADLEY,
Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 15th December, 1886.