

The present British naval strength in Eastern waters is nineteen war-ships, of 39,000 tons, carrying 135 large guns, including those of 4-inch calibre, and 150 smaller guns. The total crews consist of 8,000 men. The combined French and Russian squadrons are twenty-one war-ships of equal tonnage, carrying 153 large guns and 137 smaller guns, 4,000 men, and ten torpedo-boats, and volunteer cruisers besides. This startling comparison proves, observes a Times correspondent at Hong Kong, that without more men and ships here, Great Britain is exposing wilfully her immense Eastern interests to great danger.

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It has been decided to begin the armament of the Militia Infantry with the Lee-Metford converted rifle by the issue of that weapon to the twenty-eight battalions which belong to the Third Army Corps in the Home Defence Scheme, and it is expected that the new weapon will be taken into use and the Martini-Henry be discarded in the approaching drill season. The Militia battalions immediately affected by the change belong to Middlesex, Surrey, the Tower Hamlets, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Berkshire, Sussex, and Nottinghamshire, and form five Infantry brigades.

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The whole story of the destruction of Captain Wilson and his little band of men is now told. As anticipated, the force was slaughtered in its entirety—literally "wiped out." The Militia, after a desperate fight, managed to come to close quarters in overwhelming numbers, and it was then all over. It has always been so in battles in which civilised men have been pitted against natives of the stamp of Lobengulas men; if the natives can be kept at rifle distance, they will be repulsed with heavy slaughter; but if, on the other hand, they get to close quarters they invariably destroy their opponents to a man. Captain Wilson and his men fought with heroic courage, but they were speedily annihilated. They had no defence such as Chard and his men were able to make for themselves at Rorke's Drift, so they perished, one and all. Nothing remains of them, as Kinglake might have said, but the splendor of their resistance—"and splendor like this is something more than the mere outward adornment which graces the life of a nation. It is strength; strength other than that of mere riches, and other than that of gross numbers; strength carried by proud descent from one generation to another; strength awaiting the trials that are to come."

#### FRONTIER RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the members of the Frontier Rifle Association was held in the village of Huntingdon on Tuesday, the 13th Feb., 1894. In the absence of the president Lt. G. L. Macfarlane was chosen chairman.

The secretary-treasurer, Lt.-Col. Arch. MacLaren, presented the financial report, which was considered satisfactory and was adopted.

The officers of last year were re-elected. No change was made in any of the matches except that the Dominion of Canada Medal was given to the highest aggregate

of matches one, two and three, instead of three, four and six.

The officers of the Association are in hopes that before the next annual prize meeting they shall have new rifles, as they say the old ones are not fit to shoot at a target.

#### RIFLE MATCH AT BANFF.

At a rifle match held at the Banff, N.W. T., range last week, the following scores were made. The match was five shots at (200 yards):

F. Young	-	-	-	-	-	20
Corp. Aston, N.W.M.P., Canmore	-	-	-	-	-	20
W. Jacks	-	-	-	-	-	19
Cons. Noyce, N.W.M.P.	-	-	-	-	-	19
N. B. Sanson	-	-	-	-	-	18
J. Jansen	-	-	-	-	-	17
Cons. McKellar, N.W.M.P.	-	-	-	-	-	16
Staff-Sgt. Bagley, N.W.M.P.	-	-	-	-	-	16
Capt. Haip r, N.W.M.P.,	-	-	-	-	-	15
S. Harrison	-	-	-	-	-	13
Dr. Simpson, Winnipeg	-	-	-	-	-	12
Cons. Thompson, N.W.M.P.	-	-	-	-	-	12
N. R. Wessell, Medicine Hat	-	-	-	-	-	11
W. H. Scovth	-	-	-	-	-	10
F. Abbey	-	-	-	-	-	10
G. Hughes, Calgary	-	-	-	-	-	9

Great interest was taken in the match, nearly all the citizens turning out to watch the contest. A civilian team consisting of F. Young, W. Jacks, N. B. Sanson, J. Jansen, S. Harrison and Dr. Simpson beat the Police team by 8 points. Another match will take place next month, when entries are expected from different towns along the line.

#### THE CANADIAN MILITIA.

Lt. Col. Massey's Lecture Before The Montreal Military Institute.

At a meeting of the Montreal Military Institute, held at the rooms, Metcalfe street, on Saturday evening, the 10th inst. (Lt. Col. Prevost, one of the vice-presidents, in the chair), Lt. Col. Massey read a paper entitled "Matters of interest to the Active Militia." After an allusion to the length of his service with the force, some 24 years, Lt. Col. Massey said:

It has no doubt been evident to all interested in the militia that from one cause or another for some years past its administration has not taken the important place which it formerly held. From being one of the most prominent of the government departments, it has now fallen into what might be termed almost the junior of the thirteen or fourteen which compose the Cabinet appointments. This is probably due much to the fact that there exists a feeling among those in authority that should necessity arise, there would be no difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of trained men for any emergency, as past experience has shown that the active militia have ever been more than ready to take the field, either in repelling foreign invasion, suppressing rebellion or in aid of civil power. It is a great error to rely too much on this, however, as extraordinary occurrences may at any time arise which will require large forces and complete organization. While it is necessarily carefully to guard the public purse of a young and growing country like Canada, it is also necessary to spend sufficient for the proper maintenance of all forces

at present organized, with at least twice as many annually trained men as the department is now able to avail itself of. Parliament has for years past been satisfied with granting about the usual annual vote, and various ministers of militia have either been unable or unwilling to obtain grants, which Parliament no doubt would willingly place at the disposal of the Militia Department, provided the necessities of the forces were fully and firmly placed before it. The granting from year to year of sums insufficient has resulted in so curtailing the work of the executive department as to compel them to adopt the disastrous policy of cutting down on all sides, which, no matter, how efficient the department may be, will only finally result in generally demoralizing the force, with possibly the exception of the permanent corps, which are well cared for, and a few city regiments, at present maintained by their own efforts, both as regards expense and drill. This state of things will simply leave Canada without the necessary force to maintain order, or protect her integrity, so that should the present state of affairs be allowed to continue, requiring so much money for the smaller number of the permanent force, and leaving so little for the active militia, who compose by far the most important of Canada's defence, it would be better almost to extend the system of the Northwest Mounted Police, which has always proved such a valuable factor in assisting the settlement of our great territory in the Northwest. In this connection it can be said without any possible fear of contradiction that the portion of money expended on country battalions, compared with that placed at the disposal of city regiments, is altogether unfairly divided, while it is also beyond all question that whatever the rural corps may be they are never so ready for service as those corps which compose the leading city regiments. More and more attention has of late been paid to the welfare of the permanent corps, which though numerically small (total establishment being only 1,012) occupy a very important place with regard to the active militia, and while I would not suggest in any way that this attention and expenditure should cease, I would strongly urge that it is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the active militia, that the parliamentary grant should be so augmented as to permit of an increase in the pay and allowances to city corps, so that the present policy of cutting off both ornamental and useful sections of the regiment should cease, and the rural corps, those of whom are efficient, should be drilled annually, and that no political influence of any kind should be allowed to interfere with the disbanding of any rural corps not proving efficient. These ideas occur to me as being necessary to the successful future of the militia of Canada, and we should all recognize the fact, that while we value our connection with the great Empire we should prove a source of strength rather than a weakness as we must be if we in Canada are to rely upon large numbers of Her Majesty's regulars being sent out here in case of emergency, which matter it is