

ed experience has taught that this is not the view of the situation taken by those who work the wires which gives movement and speech to the official chief.

A word to the wise usually suffices. We shall soon have rifles of extreme range and all our existing rifle ranges are intended for short range weapons. The following discussion recently took place in the British House of Commons:—

Mr. Wilson Lloyd asked the Secretary of State for War if his intention had been called to the sad fatal accident at Tipton, to a child of Mr. Henn, who was killed by a stray bullet from the Dudley rifle range while standing at the door of his father's house; if he would state what measures would be adopted to prevent such accidents in the future at this range and other similar ranges in the country; and if the War Department would grant help to Mr. Henn to relieve him from the expense that had been inflicted upon him by the accident, amounting to £60, which was beyond his power to pay?

Mr. Woodall: Attention has been called to the accident, and firing has been prohibited there; I do not see, however, that any blame attached to the Government in the matter.

Mr. Wilson Lloyd: Is it not a fact that the range was complained of in 1892 by the inhabitants in the neighbourhood, and an inspection was ordered to be made by the War-office. As a result the ranges were pronounced to be safe, and as a consequence of that the ranges continued to be used when the accident occurred? Has not the War-office thereby become liable to give some gratuity to the father of this poor child?

Commanders in chief of Colonial forces appear to be having a lively time of it just now with the political heads of their governments. The following appeared in the last number of the *Australian Colonial Military Gazette*:

It is again our sad duty to draw attention to the discourteous way in which Major General Hutton, the Commandant, is treated by Sir George Dibbs. Recently a telegram from Tamworth was published in the metropolitan daily press an-

nouncing that the General, after inspecting the local company of the 4th Infantry Regiment, had said that he was "satisfied with the way the men acquitted themselves, but he complained of the irregularity in the attendance at drill, and threatened to disband the corps if more regular attendance was not kept up." Thereupon Sir George Dibbs, with that pretty meddlingness which seems to mark him out among the prime ministers of the world, telegraphed to the Commandant in the following terms:—"Major-General Hutton, C. B., Aide-de-camp to the Queen, Tamworth.—In the press telegram from Tamworth to-day you are reported, while inspecting the Tamworth Volunteer Corps, to have threatened to disband the corps if more regular attendance was not kept. I should like to know whether this report is correct, and, if so, to request you to be good enough to furnish me with an explanation upon what authority you made such a statement. A disbandment of the corps could only take place upon the approval of the Governor and Executive Council." General Hutton was equal to the occasion, and furnished the "explanation" in a manner which must have made Sir George feel the small man he really is. The general wired back:—"The newspaper report must be incorrect. I told the Tamworth company that if the authorised establishment could not be maintained it would be a question as to whether I should not recommend the company to be broken up. I am fully aware of the limit of my powers in this respect." To a courteous reply of this kind, all cutting through it was, what could even Sir George Richard Dibbs say? He had met his match, and all that he could wire back was that the General's explanation was "satisfactory." Some men appear to court a dressing down, and Sir George is one of these. In this instance he got one, and in a way with which no person—Dibbs excepted—could find fault.

### Battleship Le Carnot.

The new French battleship, which was launched early in the present month, is to be called "Le Carnot." The length of the vessel is 396 feet, her beam 71 feet, her draught aft 27½ feet, and her displacement 11,882 tons. She has a complete steel belt with a maximum thickness of 17.7 inches, and a curved steel deck 27.5 inches thick. Above the water line belt, there rises for an additional height of 4 feet a steel belt of 4 inch armor. The machinery of the ship consists of a pair of compound vertical engines, with three cylinders, fed by twenty-four Lagrafel & D'Allest boilers. At 95 revolutions with forced draught, 13,500 horse power should

be developed, giving a speed of 18 knots, and with 85 revolutions, natural draught, 9,600 horse power, giving a speed of about 17 knots. The machinery weighs 1,178 tons. The normal coal capacity is 800 tons, or enough for 4,000 knots' steaming, but when all subsidiary bunkers are full, coal for 5,000 knots can be carried. The cost of "Le Carnot" will be, for the ship \$4,800,000, for her gun and torpedo armament \$520,000, and for machinery and boilers \$636,000, or in all, \$5,956,000.

The armament will consist of two 11.8 inch guns, one in a 14.6 inch turret forward and the other in a similar turret aft, the forward gun being 26 feet and the after gun 19.5 feet above the water line; two 10.6 inch guns, one in a 14.6 inch turret on each beam; eight 5.5 inch quick-firing guns, mounted singly in 3.9 inch turrets, four on each beam; four 2.5 inch quick-firing, twelve 1.8 inch quick-firing, and eight 1.45 inch quick-firing or Maxim automatic guns. There will also be four above-water and two submerged torpedo-launching tubes. The most significant feature of the vessel is the enormous power of her right ahead and right astern fire. In each case this is furnished by one 11.8 inch, two 10.6 inch, and four 5.5 inch, beside smaller guns. Beam fire is furnished by two 11.8 inch, one 10.6 inch, and four 5.5 inch guns, so that in every direction the ship is offensively strong to an exceptional degree.

### Great Britain in Egypt.

It is being urged in military circles in London that the British forces in Egypt should immediately make an important advance on the Upper Nile—a new campaign against the Dervishes. The recent crushing defeat inflicted upon the latter by the Italian forces at Kassala has, it appears, so demoralized the tribes that energetic action now on the part of the Egyptian forces would secure peace on the frontier for a considerable time to come. It is stated that negotiations are in progress for the Italian and British forces to act in concert during the forthcoming operations. The former would advance from Kassala upon Khartoum, supported by the Abyssinian army, while the combined English and Egyptian troops would march upon Berber from Suakim. After disposing of the remains of Osman Digna's Dervishes at Berber, which are now said to number only from two to three thousand fighting men, the combined British and Egyptian army would follow the course of the Nile to Khartoum and there affect a junction with the Italian forces. Preparations for the expedition are being made, but very quietly, it is asserted, so as not to rouse international jealousies. There is no doubt that a movement of the kind indicated above would be favorably regarded among military men, as it is beginning to be feared that if an advance on Khartoum be much longer delayed another European Power will be there before us and take possession.