

CORRESPONDENCE.

17 Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

WIMBLEDON TEAM.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir:—I write to call your attention to this subject, as I have not noted any reference to it in your columns lately. The first Canadian team started from Quebec last Saturday on their journey to join the National Rifle meeting on Wimbledon Common. The men are selected from the various Provinces, and individually are good shots, but as a team collectively really a great deal ought not to be expected of them: for those who are accustomed to team shooting well know that men must be accustomed to shoot together, and so gain that mutual confidence which is the great requisite of team shooting.

If these teams are sent for several years, it will likely improve and encourage right shooting; for in my own Regiment I find more attention is paid to the matches since it was understood that a trip to England might be the prize attained.

In the preliminary contests "Quebec" Province came out a good way ahead, and eight from that Province have gone; from "Ontario" six, and from "Maritimo" Provinces six more.

The Adjutant General has well chosen the Commanders or Captains. Major General MacDougall will, no doubt, take care that the first representatives of a force, whose organization he had much to do with, are placed in an advantageous position.

Major Worsley, who is the member of the Team placed in command, is certainly the right man in the right place: a well known "crack shot" and well used in match and team shooting. He will be at us here at Wimbledon, having formerly attended meetings there, detailed for that duty from the School of Musketry at Hythe.

We wish the Team every success.

A RIFLEMAN.

Montreal, June 20th, 1872.

FROM MONTREAL.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

A very sensible letter in regard to Volunteer Camps, appeared in the Montreal Gazette of Wednesday. It has so often been asserted that the Militia Law being at fault, is the cause of the falling off of the various battalions in this Province, but it is refreshing to read a little common sense view of the matter. A ten "years old volunteer" asking why it works well in Ontario, writes: "Witness Niagara Camp to-day. Why is it that our ranks are depleted and our companies with difficulty kept at half their proper

strength? Facts are stubborn things, and this is one of them. Our young men have been driven from the ranks and voluntary enlistment, killed by the selfishness of those who have the most at stake. Of course there are many honorable exceptions. But even before annual camps were spoken of, if a young man was seeking a situation, and it was known he was a volunteer, the chances were very much against his procuring one. And even after the affair of '66, more than one young man found the door shut on him or another filling his place as a reward for staying at home. And to-day, Sir, a volunteer is looked upon as little better than a fool for his pains, and a nuisance. There are many reasons why very able-bodied young men should receive every encouragement to serve his three years in one or other of our volunteer corps—reasons both political and physical,—and there is no lack of young men both willing and ready to more than fill our ranks did they receive the encouragement they should. As to the advantages of these annual camps over the old system, there can be no two opinions. There are many absolutely necessary duties to learn that can never be acquired by feather-bed soldiering at home."

There is no question but that he is in the main correct. Employers in general, throw cold water on the whole volunteer movement, many make it a *sine qui non*, that none of their employees belong to any such organization. One very prominent dry goods house, the head of which is one of the pillars of the Young Men's Christian Association here, has made itself particularly notorious in this respect. Such people are thoroughly to be despised, of course there are allowances to be made in extreme cases, but a certain amount of consideration is due both to the man and the motive.

Preparations for the camp are progressing, the Garrison Artillery parade at the Quebec Gate Barracks, this Thursday evening; Col. Bond & Co. meet on Friday, when uniforms and accoutrements will be distributed.

The Garrison Artillery will drill at the Quebec Gate Barracks, instead of going to St. Helen's Island, the Brigade go into barracks about the middle of July. This fine regiment will make a good turn out.

The "Victoria's" will probably turn out 250 men, the "Prince of Wales" are having a large number of recruits, will be inspected on Saturday previous to departing to camp at St. Andrew's on Tuesday.

No. 1 Troop, Major Muir commanding, had a large muster on Monday evening, when it was decided to purchase new clothing themselves, as they despair now of getting any from Government.

The Hochelagas are making every effort to turn out in their former strength, and with their energetic Adjutant and Officers will no doubt be successful.

FOREIGN, MILITARY AND NAVAL ITEMS.

The German Government has determined to introduce the muzzle system of the musket manufacturer Mauser, of Wurtemberg.

The British are arms producers in no small way, as the monthly returns of the small arms trade at Birmingham proves. In April the value of the arms made was £30,000, and of ammunition, not including gunpowder, £105,000. In 1871 about five times this value of arms was made.

New rules for the picketing of cavalry horses have been promulgated in the British service. Chain reins will no longer be classed as equipment. Instead of the chain rein a rope of white cotton for use as a halter will be supplied. A similar rope will also be issued as a forge-cord, or as a heel-rope, in order that every mounted officer and man may have two such ropes always in his possession as equipment.

GENERAL CURRIE, who was so severely censured by the commission on capitulations in their report on the surrender of Strasburg, has been retired from active service in the army. In the debate in the French Assembly on the Army bill, General Trochu, in a vigorous speech, charged the Bonapartes with corrupting the army, and was greeted with applause from all parts of the Chamber.

MARSHAL BAZAINE received on May 9th, the order which he was then expecting from the Government to surrender himself. A colonel, with a company of one hundred dragoons, was sent to escort him to Versailles, where he arrived late at night. No one was to be allowed to see him during the following eight days. Public feeling was greatly excited by the news of his arrest. Of the numerous friends he used to reckon in Paris, only six have had the courage to call upon him.

"The official Gazette of Strasburg confirms the news," says the *Constitutionnel*, "that the military engineers are opposed to the construction of new fixed bridges to unite Alsace and the Grand Duchy of Baden. In consequence, the authorities of the annexed provinces and of the Grand Duchy of Baden have decided on simply establishing eight bridges of boats, four at the cost of Alsace, and the others to be paid for by the Duchy." They do not desire to expunge their "silver streak."

HENRI ROCHEFORT sailed from France for New Caledonia, May 21st, together with several other persons who have been convicted of participation in the communist revolt. The Paris journals of May 23rd, generally agree in the expression of the opinion that the recent debates in the Assembly have inflicted a crushing blow to the hopes of the friends of the Empire. It is understood that the party of the left in the Assembly, will, after the close of the impending trial of Marshal Bazaine, demand the impeachment of the members of the last Ministry under the Empire.

The Emperor Napoleon, in a letter dated Chiselhurst, May 12th, and addressed to the generals and commanders of the French army, makes the following acknowledgments: "I am responsible for Sedan. The Army fought heroically with an enemy double strength. After 14,000 had been killed and wounded, I saw the contest was merely one of desperation. The army's honor had been saved. I exercised my sovereign right and unfurled the flag of truce. It was possible that the immolation of 60,000 could save France. I obeyed a cruel, inorable necessity. My heart was broken, my conscience was clear."

B.