

THE BREECH-LOADER FOR THE BRITISH ARMY.—The sub-committee at Woolwich, consisting of Colonel Fletcher, Captain Mackinnon, Earl Spencer, Mr. Edward Ross, and Capt. Haigh, appointed to solve the important question of breech *versus* muzzle-loading rifle should be converted into a Snider breech loader it was understood that it was only a temporary arrangement, and that an entirely new weapon should be sought and selected for the army. The sub-committee have been acting at Woolwich, Arsenal for three years past, at an annual cost for officers' pay of £1000, and for expenses of trial £2500 per annum. During that time various trials have been made with Henry breeches, fitted to various barrels, as well as by the different rifles in their entirety. The trials show that the breech mechanism of the Henry rifle combines strength, safety, and simplicity.

THE FRENCH ARMY AND NAVY.—The blue book just issued by the Government contains some details regarding the French army and navy. We are told that there are 378,852 men in the interior, 64,531 in Algeria, and 5328 in Italy; but from this total must be deducted 114,431 men absent on leave. At the date of the last returns the effective of the reserve amounted to 198,546, and adding to this force the Garde Mobile, consisting of 381,980, we have a grand total of 1,028,980 men, and this effective will go on increasing until the year 1877, when the climax will be reached. In that year the reserve, which consists of half the annual contingent, will be as strong, as far as numbers go, as the active army. As far as the fleet is concerned, we find that on the 31st of December, 1868, France had 430 vessels, of which 331 were steamers with 76,165 horse-power. There were in course of completion 38 more steamers and 1 sailing transport. The new naval force, which constitutes the real maritime strength of the empire, numbers 314 steamers and 10 sailing vessels—50 ironclads of various sizes, 96 screw steamers, 91 small steamers, 95 transports, and 2 training ships.—*Paris Letter.*

—Some very interesting experiments have just been made at Shoeburyness. It is only a short time since we recorded the death of Mr. Chalmers, who had invented a target, the principle of which was said to be the best yet discovered, combining the materials used so as to give the greatest possible resistance to shot or shell. A target had been provided at Shoeburyness, one portion of which represented the old form of armour clothing, while two others were from the designs of Mr. Chalmers, and had been erected under that gentleman's personal supervision. The weight of the materials used was in each case the same, the trial was most conclusive, the Chalmers' target having been riddled by both shot and shell, while the War Office target was not perforated. As a contemporary remarks, "the Chalmers' construction had failed. Relatively it had exhibited a far less resisting power than the War Office section—a result so marked and decisive as to admit of no qualification or explaining away. At this point, perhaps, most of the visitors found it a relief to miss one well known face, and not to witness the sorrow with which this practical destruction of a much pondered theory and of long years of labor must inevitably have clouded it."

Admiral Sartorius has made a suggestion for the employment of the men about to be discharged from the Army and the Marines on military service in New Zealand. He calculates that within four months 1,000 Volunteers may be started with small arms and light artillery to carry on the war to a successful issue. The Admiral is afraid the friendly Maories will think too much of themselves if they are too much depended on. In order to attract the volunteers they are to be offered part of the land they conquer from the Maori foe. The late outbreak was in no sense a general one. It appears to have arisen from the treachery of certain natives who had been sent to Chatham Island, and who returned on a promise of good behaviour, which they soon afterwards broke.

The new pattern approved tunic for infantry soldiers is in the course of issue to regiments for the present year. The chief difference from the old pattern is in the shape of the sleeve facing, which is pointed, and has a white tape lace for an edging. The skirt is without any opening or pocket behind, and there are two buttons and a brass hook on the seam to support the waist-belt. A great difference is also made in the cutting of the cloth, the backpiece being continued between the two buttons to the bottom of the skirt, and the breast-pieces being each joined by a thick raised seam down the front. This latter arrangement allows the breast of the coat to be made much larger if required.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

THE undersigned having compiled a MANUAL OF RIFLE SHOOTING for Volunteers and others will feel obliged if the Militia Staff Officers and Secretaries of Rifle Associations or Clubs throughout Canada will kindly furnish him at their earliest convenience with a short description of their Ranges, Targets, Rules, &c.; also name of Patron, President and Secretary, with address of the latter.

Any information from any gentleman, that might be of benefit to Riflemen in the Dominion will be thankfully received. Communications from the Maritime Province are specially requested.

A. LORD RUSSELL,
Secy. Toronto Rifle Club,
Dept. of Crown Lands,
Toronto, Ont.



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CHANGE OF TIME.

ON and after Friday, 15th May, 1868, and until further notice

TRAINS WILL RUN AS FOLLOWS:

Leave Ottawa.	Express, 7:00 a. m.	Arrive in Prescott.	9:25 a. m.
Mixed, 1:00 p. m.		4:15 p. m.	
Mall, 9:00 p. m.		11:45 p. m.	
Leave Prescott.	Mixed, 7:15 a. m.	Arrive in Ottawa.	10:35 a. m.
Express, 1:35 p. m.		4:15 p. m.	
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December 1868

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