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MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 15, 1896.

Notes and Comments

The 100th Regt. (Royal Canadians) Mentioned in the Senate.

In the course of an address in answer to the speech from the Throne, to the Senate, the Hon. Mr. Boulton, Lieut.-Col., made the following remarks, in answer specially to that part of the speech presaging a more vigorous militia policy.

"The only other subject which I wish to touch upon is the clause which appears in the address referring to the intention to provide for the better arming of our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences. We are justly proud of our Mounted Police and their effectiveness in assisting in the peaceful settlement of our large territories. Our small standing force is steadily improving in efficiency. A movement is on foot to induce the British government to establish the depot of the Royal Canadian regiment raised in Canada some 38 years ago, that Canadians may have the opportunity of joining the Imperial service. I hope it may be successful. As an old soldier, who left Canada in 1858 with that regiment, I can express my feelings on this clause of the address more freely because I thoroughly realize the importance of arming our militia

properly. At present they are armed with an obsolete weapon, and there is no use keeping up a force on paper merely. The efforts we have put forth from year to year to induce the people of Canada to be more liberal in their support of the militia have up to the present been unsuccessful. Unfortunately, the condition of the world at the present moment affords ample justification to the government to make an improvement now. I only hope that they will do their utmost to put the force on a better footing, in recognition of the single-minded efforts which the members of the force are themselves making to improve the efficiency of the service and make it an honour to the country."

What explosive shall we use with our new small bore rifles is a momentous question. Rumours come to us from all sources that cordite, which is now used by the English army, has all manner of defects. How true they are, experience only can tell but sure it is that the Government must take them into account and thoroughly investigate them before committing themselves to its use.

We append a squib clipped from an English journal, which is a sample of many which are published in all the service papers.

"Is cordite, or is it not, a thoroughly reliable satisfactory explosive? Not so long ago we were assured that the powder had withstood extreme heat and cold without deteriorating in the least; yet now comes a report from India to the opposite effect. When kept at a high temperature, such as is normal in many parts of India, it throws off, it is said, nitrous fumes, which destroy the fulminating composition in the cap, and render the cartridges innocuous. As any such defect in the powder is a question of vital importance to us, most of our campaigns being carried on under the conditions of very high temperature, the matter ought to be at once inquired into.

Captain J. Sinclair, formerly M. P., for Dumbarton, Scotland, has been appointed secretary to the Governor General, vice, Arthur J. L. Gordon Esq., resigned. Capt. Sinclair formerly served in the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, and during

the term of the last Imperial Government (Liberal party) was assistant private secretary to Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, Secretary of State for War.

"Alas That It Were So."

The Columbus "Despatch" of Jan. 24 reports the paper read before the lyceum at Columbus Barracks by Capt. James M. Burns, 17th Inf., on "The Necessity for Lake Coast Defenses." Capt. Burns referred to the report that England has on hand in Canadian ports merchant vessels of unusual solidity which can be turned within a few hours into ships of war, guns for their use stored in convenient places, false decks beneath which are the heavy decks and on these real deck tracks and other appliances for the handling of guns have been placed. Capt. Burns said: "Should a war break out now we should be little better prepared for defense on the lakes than our forefathers were in 1812. The Canadians have under construction a canal from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay, which will allow their vessels to sail for Chicago and Duluth without a single gun to interrupt their voyage. It is currently reported and generally believed that a fleet of small gunboats is constantly kept in the harbor of Newfoundland for use on the lakes in case of necessity, and it is a well-known fact that large stores of munitions of war are constantly kept on that island. In case of war what might England do? Blockade the mouth of the St. Lawrence River and send a fleet of gunboats up the river to operate on the lakes, a movement that would be opposed by our poor old revenue cutter Michigan, carrying one gun. England would also send an army to protect the Welland Canal." Capt. Burns here quoted from two army officers in Canada, whose statements were to the effect that in case of war they would take Detroit, as they did before. They also said "If in case Lord Salisbury believes war inevitable, he will lull Americans into inactivity by professed yielding, while he assembles his ships off the coast of Newfoundland; they will suddenly appear under the citadel of Quebec, and on the same day all military organizations will receive orders. The Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railroads, really military lines, will transport these men—there will be 40,000 of them in the two provinces—to the Welland Canal, Windsor, Sarnia (opposite Port Huron,) and the "Soo" and before the American nation knows anything about it the fleet will be bombarding Cleveland while another portion will lie off Detroit and blow it out of existence. Then the ships will reduce Chicago, Milwaukee and the other lake cities. Among the military of Canada there is an unmistakable looking forward to war, while in Detroit everything else, even the street car fight, is forgotten."—Army and Navy Journal, New York.

The sergeants of the Berkshire Regiment, stationed at Halifax, N. S., at a sleigh-ride on Saturday, drove through the city carrying a number of flags, the largest of which was a United States flag.