

## THE HUESTIS GUN.

Mr. John Huestis, late light house keeper at Sea Cow Head, P. E. I., is at present in the city, and has with him the model of a mitrailleuse recently invented by himself. The model is rather of the unpolished kind but it is sufficiently neat to demonstrate quite clearly the principle of the machine, which seems to be one entirely practicable. The model is about a foot long, six inches wide and perhaps seven inches high, though in practical use the proportionate height may be considerably reduced.

A circular band or lead beneath the machine represents the traveller on which it is intended to be worked in changing the gun to any point horizontally. Over this is a board of the full length and width of the model which represents the main platform, and above it, distant some two and a half inches, is a frame of the same size in which the movements or machinery of the gun, with the barrels, are placed. The end of the frame furthest from the barrels is raised and lowered by means of a screw which of course elevates or depresses the guns. In the middle of the frame is a cylinder with axis lying transversely or at right angles with the sides the frame. On the frame, with the rear ends against the face of the cylinder and lying in a radial direction from it, are two barrels through which the balls are intended to be discharged, and on the opposite side of the cylinder are two shorter cylinders, into which the cartridges are deposited from a box immediately above them. The large cylinder forms the breech or chambers of the gun, the chambers being bored into it on both sides, at regular distances from each other on its circumference. A needle is arranged communicating with the chambers from the side. The gun is worked by a lever which may be operated from above, at the end or below the frame, and by simple mechanism two movements of the lever—one backwards and one forward—forces cartridges into two of the chambers from the supply box or small cylinder, and brings the hammer on the needles on each of the cylinders, exploding the charges in the chambers which are opposite the barrels. As the cylinder is revolved by the lever another movement underneath forces the remains of the exploded cartridges from the chambers and the firing may go on until the barrels are heated. The only part of the machine which moves directly from the lever is the large cylinder, which by means of cogs, pins and springs ingeniously and simply arranged works all the other movements, which are not in any way complicated or likely to be easily put out of order.

Mr. Huestis is one of these men who are inventors by nature and he appears to be able to comprehend an idea as soon as it is presented. In the solitude of Sea Cow Head, surrounded by the waste of waters on one hand and dark beetling cliffs on the other he realized the inefficiency of present means of human destruction on the battle field and set about supplying what was wanted. He read the papers, meantime, and became convinced that if Prince Edward Island entered into Confederation he and other citizens would be benefitted. Thus, he dilated to those who came in his way on the number of men his gun would kill in a minute and the glorious future of the Island as a portion of the Dominion. He began to be looked on as a man to be watched. Then came the railway question in the Island and though he did not live within miles of the proposed route, he favored the scheme. He had caused the Government of the Island to use

Kerosene instead of whale oil in their light-houses, had invented a self-feeder, so that he need not be broken of his rest at night in trimming his lights and progressing still in the path of genius he invented a contrivance by which when he walked at day-light he had but to pull a string and out went the lights in the lantern hundreds of feet away. The men who opposed Confederation and the Railway in Prince Edward Island marked Mr. Huestis, as a dangerous man, and one of those first acts on coming into power was to turn him from the light-house. If he had been of the non-progressive stupid class who would vote as he was directed or paid to vote, he would yet have been receiving his £60 a year as light keeper of Sea Cow Head, but as he wasn't he now has leisure to make a tour through a few places in the Dominion and placing his machine before the public.—*St. John, Telegraph.*

## THE GREAT SWISS SHOOTING FESTIVAL

This national meeting commenced at Zurich on Sunday 14th inst., and closed on Sunday, the 21st inst. The following is from the special correspondent of the *Daily News*, who, we understand, to be Mr. Lock, author of the *Volunteer's Friend*. As we mentioned in our last, only four British Volunteers have put in an appearance at Zurich, and our countrymen expressed great dissatisfaction with the arrangements made to receive them:—

For the accommodation of the marksmen there are 140 targets placed about one foot apart. Large figures denote the target at which you have to fire, and the distance is 1000 feet. The Swiss marksman fires out of a covered house, and before him he has a ledge on which he can place his shooting requisites. He fires at a black circular bull's-eye about two feet in diameter, but no hit counts unless he strikes the center of this black, which is called a carton. If he gets a carton, the firer has a ticket presented to him, and the carton is sent over to the committee-room to be measured. The quality of the cartons vary from one to six thousand points. When it is considered that in measurement that testing machine will be thrown out two points by the insertion of a single hair, it will be seen that the most central shot can only be got by the axis of the bullet striking the central pin. No man is allowed to take a prize unless he has made ten cartons, and then he takes a ten-franc piece specially struck for the occasion. In the event of his number of cartons reaching 100 he takes 100 francs and a cup value for the same amount is addition.

There were something like a thousand prizes for the Swiss marksmen, some of them of great value. They are exhibited in a pagoda, and are surrounded by an influx of visitors, who come from all parts of Switzerland. Indeed the wives, sweethearts, brothers, and sisters of the Swiss riflemen appear to take an unusually keen interest in the shooting, and again and again visit the pagoda to examine the gold watches and silver cups their relatives are so keenly contending for. In the immense pavilion erected for the accommodation of the marksmen and their friends, a long table is set apart for each canton. England is not forgotten, but the table, for want of its legitimate occupants, is besieged by a medley crowd of Swiss dunces, who strew the contents of their baskets—saveloys, black puddings, and strange-looking rolls—over the table. The four Englishmen were very courteously entertained at dinner by the Committee. They are somewhat disappointed at not having

special long-range targets set apart for them.

July 17.—The marksmen appear to make quite a profession of shooting. But very few wear uniforms—the common dress was a holland blouse and green baize apron, in which were capacious pockets. One marksman appeared unusually business like. He had arranged his cartridge before him on a table; beside him was a boy with a carton registry book. He scored seven consecutive cartons, a feat unsurpassed at Wimbledon. It must be remembered that the Swiss distance is 333 and one-third yards from the shoulder; then the diameter of the carton is four inches, whilst at Wimbledon we have an eight-inch square. At Zurich the best shot obtains the best prize, but at Wimbledon it sometimes happens that he does not. It often occurs at Wimbledon that a man who gets one of his bull's-eyes in the corner of the black square gets £20, while another man who makes a centre one-eighth of an inch to the right or left of the bull's-eye gets but £3, although it is certain that the shot which only counted three is nearer the centre of the target than the shot which counts four. There are 133 *Bonnes Cibles* (pool targets), but only seven targets are allotted for special prizes. In the Swiss competition a marksman who can spend the most money and is at the same time a good shot stands the best chance, for he can fire any number of shots at any of these *Bonnes Cibles* on payment of 30 centimes (3d) each shot. When he has registered five numbers (cartons) he wins a five franc piece specially struck for the meeting, and during the whole meeting he may secure a five franc piece for every five cartons he may register. When his number of cartons have reached one hundred he is declared the winner of the silver cup value 100 francs, and this is given in addition to the five francs for each five cartons. Three out of the four Englishmen have left Zurich dissatisfied, and Mr. Lock is the only Englishman present. Before the three left, Mr. Lock explained to the Committee the unfavourable nature of the conditions under which the British Volunteers were asked to compete, and compared his 577 bore Snider to the .45 bore used by the Swiss. The Committee replied that the rules under which their society was constituted prevented them altering their arrangements to suit the British Volunteers; nor were they enabled to use their funds to provide special prizes for the latter. The members of the Committee refused to be convinced that the English Volunteers fired under any disadvantage, and Mr. Lock's rifle was handed in to the armoury to be tested, numbered and registered. Having been adorned with the society's ribbon, it was handed back to him with the hint that the rifle had passed muster, and that he might shoot. A goodly number of Swiss marksmen assembled to watch the English shoot with the Westley-Richard but the exceedingly coarse military foresight prevented their making even a decent appearance. The Swiss refused to acknowledge any disadvantage as compared with their fine sighted weapons, and appeared to thoroughly enjoy the joke. Not so the English Volunteers who appeared to be much distressed at their misfortune. The journals express their opinion that the English have not been well treated by the Swiss. It is right that the English public should know that the English Volunteers are here, in response to an invitation by M. Hauser and Dr. Ryf, the president and secretary, who signed the invitation on behalf of the Organizing Committee. To make sure, previous to undertaking so long a journey, one of the English Volunteers wrote to Dr. Ryf for information, and in reply