

ing chlorates or nitrates is likely to result in explosions. All such materials as chlorate of potash and chlorate of soda should be kept outside of the manufacturing buildings in a separate building provided for the purpose. Attention is also called to the increased use of peroxide of sodium as an oxidizing agent. The storage of this substance should also be properly safeguarded, as the contact of this chemical with moisture or organic matter, may cause spontaneous combustion. It is requested, that owners of dyeing establishments will advise us fully in regard to any experience in spontaneous combustion which they may have with these or other chemicals."

Chlorine may be a powerful bleaching and disinfecting agent, but it must not be forgotten that it is destructive of life, and that its disagreeable, suffocating odour warrants any and every precaution which can be devised for the safeguarding of life and property in places where it is used and stored.

#### Cleaning Cuba.

In view of the interest, financial and otherwise, being shown by Canadians in the improvement and development of Cuba, there is good reason for the gratification being expressed at the prospect of some \$8,000,000 being expended for the sewerage and paving of Havana. The periodical outlook of yellow fever in this rich and lovely island has doubtless retarded its commercial progress; but now a clean and wholesome Cuba is to be opened up to settlers through the railway and colonization project of Sir William Van Horne and others, and there can be no good and sufficient reason why life in the tropics should be regarded with fear and dislike by the natives of Northern climes.

The plans for the great work about to be commenced in Havana have been prepared under the direction of Major Wm. M. Black, now Chief Engineer of the Division of Cuba, they were drawn up by D. D. McComb, and revised by S. M. Gray. The sewerage work is on the separate system. The storm water drains are all short, running to the nearest outlet on the sea or harbour front. The Engineering Record" contains detailed particulars.

**Then and Now.** To a person who reviews dispassionately the work of the Royal Canadians in South Africa, the record thereof cannot but suggest pleasant reflections. It is without any feeling of resentment, that we recall some remarks made by that semi-official mouth-piece of the military authorities in Great Britain, the "Broad Arrow," barely two years ago. Major-General Hutton having completed his inspection of our citizen soldiers, and made his report, the "Broad Arrow" indulged in some breezy comments thereon.

After complaining that these inspections were carried out in the cut-and-dried way of the "sixties" in England, the paper in question remarked:—"The result is that each regiment considers itself the best in Canada, and perhaps in the world, whilst a six-

months' German or Austrian conscript, or any twelve months' 'Tommy' knows more about attack, fire discipline, outpost duty or fire control than does the whole Dominion force."

The self-complacent imbecility of this critic of Colonial troops would have been irritating if his dense ignorance had not been so over-powering as to provoke amusement. However, feeling impelled to reply to such an attack upon the Canadian volunteers, we said in THE CHRONICLE of December 9th, 1898:

"In appearance, physique, intelligence and marksmanship, the Canadian militiaman is fully the equal of his English brother in arms, and it has frequently happened that in matters of drill and discipline he has been found worthy to stand shoulder to shoulder with the best of the 'Broad Arrow's' 'Tommys'."

"If the 'Broad Arrow' will take the trouble to enquire of those who know, it will be found that the half-trained colonist is a bigger, better, brighter, and more useful all-round man than the ordinary Englishman, trained as the latter is, thoroughly in some one pursuit. Knowing this to be true, we venture to say that the splenetic outburst of the 'Broad Arrow' displays ignorance equal to the bad taste which dictated such an attack. However, those who know anything of the Canadian militia can testify that, whenever pitted against the Imperial troops at Halifax or Ottawa on the rifle ranges, the former invariably win; the exchanges of companies from the Canadian regulars and the Berkshire Regiment, gave colonists no cause to blush for their countrymen; and, even at gun shifting, we have seen Canadian artillerymen defeat their trained brethren of the British service. The 'Broad Arrow' ought to be, and probably is, ashamed of its silly exhibition of ignorance, calculated, as its article is, to create a feeling of annoyance in every mess room and armoury of the Dominion."

We trust that the "Broad Arrow" will not object if we have thus good-naturedly recalled its rude remarks about the "whole Dominion force" of two years ago. The despised Canadian who was said to be outclassed by a "six months' German conscript or any twelve months' Tommy" has now the unqualified commendation of Lord Roberts, and has proved himself equal to the best of two hundred thousand men picked from all parts of the Empire.

Has the "Broad Arrow" a proper feeling of contempt for its "opinion of yesterday," seeing that the "Army and Navy Gazette" has just published a coloured engraving showing types of "the splendid troops of the Dominion." However, Messrs. Kruger, Steyn, and lots of people entertained wrong ideas about many things, before the outbreak of war in South Africa.

All's well that ens well. The war is approaching its termination with the regular and irregular soldiers each entertaining for the other the warmest feelings of respect and admiration. The volunteer has had the opportunity of noting the patience and pluck of "Tommy Atkins," and the latter has not hesitated to express his pleasure and astonishment at the cool courage of his more intelligent comrade.