

ral for a rifle, which he admits, however, may perform well up to 800 yards, with an expanding ball and a slow burning powder. He prefers a short barrel with a rapid twist. In this there is nothing new. The German rifles that have been in use for the last hundred years would nearly fulfil the conditions laid down, and plenty of rifles were made in England before the name of Minié was heard of, quite near enough to Colonel Jacob's specification to perform well if fitted with the appropriate bullet. The mystery is not in the rifling, but in the shape of the projectile. "For my projectiles, therefore," says Colonel Jacob, we require a short barrel with deep grooves and great twist. If we attempt to use these projectiles with a long thin barrel, like the Enfield, they must fail signally. The weight of the ball and its solid resistance, are too great for the weaker barrel, which trembles, shakes, and vibrates when fired to a degree with shows it to be altogether over strained; in fact, the iron of the barrel must be disturbed into a series of waves, and the ball passes along it, and the elastic action of so thin a tube near the muzzle end, must make it jerk the ball about in a wonderful manner as it leaves it. Colonel Jacob has here adverted to an important principle, which may account for the unexplained fact, that while shot barrels are almost as invariably made eight-sided; the angles on the barrel being calculated to arrest the undulation. The same circumstance may also give a clue to the fact, the double rifle was found preferable to the single. The single barrel must be made stout, so as to control the expansion and vibration; but the double barrel effects this by means of joining two tubes together. The waves cannot be generated to the same extent, when one side of the barrel that is undergoing expansion under the force of the powder is held firm by another piece of metal which is not undergoing a similar expansion. It is quite in accordance with sound theory, therefore, that the double gun may actually be found to perform better than a single—taking the weight into due consideration. With regard to size, Colonel Jacob considers a 32-gauge to be large enough for anything, and twenty-four inches to be long enough for the barrel of any calibre whatever. The grooves, he says, should be full, deep, breadth equal to that of the lands, and may turn once in three feet of length. Such are Colonel Jacob's conclusions; based upon experience, second to that of no living man; and though we should beg leave to differ from the general affirmation, that 24 inches would be found long enough for any barrel, we willingly admit that Colonel Jacob's view is substantially the correct one.

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All further details, with the rates to be allowed for Towing, &c., can be known on applying to this Office. Two responsible persons will be required to give security for the due performance of the Contract.

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By order,
THOMAS A. BEGLY,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Toronto, 16th February, 1858.

MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Post-masters Gen. and marked "Tender for Mail Service," will be received at Toronto, until 12 o'clock Noon, on **SATURDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF MAY** next, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails Once per week each way between Chicoutimi and Murray Bay, on and from the **FIRST DAY OF JUNE** next.

The conveyance to be made in a Cariole during winter, and on Foot or on Horse-back during Summer.

The computed distance between Chicoutimi and Murray Bay is Ninety miles.

The days and hours of arrival and departure to be as follows: subject to a right of the Post-master General to alter the same, should he consider it advisable so to do. To leave Chicoutimi with the Mail each Monday at noon, and to arrive at Murray Bay on the Thursday following at 10 a. m. — to leave Murray Bay on the Friday following immediately on the arrival of the Quebec Mail, and to arrive at Chicoutimi on Sunday evening following, or at latest on Monday morning, at 8 o'clock.

The Contract, if satisfactory executed, will continue in force for a term not exceeding two years: the Post-master General reserving the right to terminate the agreement at any time previous to the expiration of the two years, should the public interest in his opinion require it, upon giving the Contractor three months' previous notice of his intention.

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Blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices at Murray Bay, Grande Baie, Chicoutimi, Bagotville, Ste. Irénée, and Port au Persil.

Tenders will be received from Murray Bay, or Chicoutimi, at the convenience of the Contractor.

W. H. GRIFFIN,
Depty. P. M. Genl.

Post Office Department,
Toronto, 20th March, 1858.

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Inquiry about a Father

A SLAVE named HARRIS, who

was owned by Robert Hedd, of Missouri, ran away some twenty years since, after his wife was sold far away, and is supposed to be in Canada. His wife's name was Lucy and was owned by one Cornwell. Their children were Hetsy, Jane, Patsy, Eliza and Samuel. One of Harris' children (he son) now about 26 years of age, a very strong and stout man, with an honest face and pleasant manners, is very desirous of knowing where his father is—having heard that he is alive and in Canada, called HARRIS, or some other name. Should this notice meet the Father's eye, he is earnestly requested to communicate his Post Office address to the undersigned.

LEWIS TAPPAN,
48, Beekman Street, New York

New York, 16th January, 1858.
Editors throughout Canada are respectfully requested for humanity's sake, to give the above one or more insertions.

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Quebec, April 10, 1858.

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT,
Toronto, 9th December, 1857.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR GENERAL, by an Order in Council, bearing date the 4th of December, 1856, has been pleased to order and direct that Cloth and other Materials required for making up Military Clothing for the use of the Provincial Militia, be admitted free of Duty of Customs, upon the Approver, or other competent person, ascertaining the value for duty of the Cloth or other Materials imported and used in Regimental Uniforms, for the Private as well as the Officer, and that the Duty thereon be ascertained and allowed to each Company through the Adjutant General of Militia in charge of the Company, upon the oath of the party that said Cloth and other Materials had paid Duties of Customs on their importation, which had not been refunded.

By Command,
R. S. M. BOUCHETTE,
Commissioner of Customs.