

being of no account when the interests of party or personal spite was to be served.

As it is of minor importance to the public interests whether a man was punished for attempted fraud in November or May, and as punishment is inevitable in any case, the value of all this row about *mislaid documents* is not easily appreciated except on the hypothesis that some grand *coup d'état* will be effected by awaking the indignation of the faithful in Ontario. About the action taken to obtain a copy of the proceedings, the *Globe* wilfully misrepresents the circumstances connected therewith; it is, moreover, ignorant of the Adjutant-General's true rank and of the fact that *Jedburgh law* is not known as part of the military code of Canada, and, therefore, a copy of the proceedings of the court of enquiry was not sufficient to enable the Adjutant General to decide on the validity or justice of the finding of that court.

Military etiquette is the soul of military discipline, and Canada does not require a horde of armed partisans (the more tools the *Globe* and other journals of its stamp have tried to make of its army) but trained and disciplined soldiers; not a brawling mob imbued with the rascalities of a party contest at the polling booth; and the interests of Canada could be served to a very considerable extent if that journal would tell the people how the confirmation of the finding of a court of enquiry involving the dismissal from an unpaid service of a single officer could affect the interests of "the Ministerial candidates for Dorchester, Levis, or Quebec" in July or January or any other month; or is the assertion like the rest a deliberate falsehood.

The British committee on high angle and vertical fire from rifled howitzers and mortars have recommended the adoption of an 8-inch howitzer, with a twist of 1 in 16 calibres, and throwing a shell of 150 lb., for permanent works of defence as well as for siege purposes. Colonel S. E. Gordon, C. B., Royal Artillery, Director of Artillery Studies at Woolwich, has just addressed a paper to the Royal Artillery Institution, entitled "Curved Fire for Breaching Unseen Defences," which states that a few rounds fired at his request at Shoeburyness, from a 46 pounder breech-loading gun, at an elevation of 15 degrees, with a charge of powder one-fourth the shell's weight, obtained a range of 900 yards, with a high trajectory. Colonel Gordon submits in tabular form the ranges to be obtained with certain charges at different degrees of elevations, and suggests that similar tables should be prepared for all kinds of guns likely to be employed in future siege operations; also that artillerymen should be trained in making up cartridges for and working the guns with reduced charges, so as to enable them to pitch a shell when required into an enemy's fortress with something like accuracy. As it is only occasionally that there is a martello tower to be destroyed, he proposes that the gunners should practice at canvas targets hidden behind earthen screens.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—I read with pleasure the excellent letter from one of your correspondents in the Review of 29th April, on "The Best Plan for Training Scientific Officers for the Canadian Military Service," and trust his suggestions may receive from Government the attention which they deserve, particularly as to the propriety of making Engineer officers useful (as in the United States) in connection with the great public works which the country has undertaken. By adopting your correspondent's suggestions the Dominion would obtain the services of men who might be the salvation of the country in time of war, and who would never be idle in time of peace.

Another subject, the importance of which should I think be earnestly impressed on Government, is that of the protection of Manitoba, and the immense country which has lately been added to our responsibility in the north-west. The danger there is, I think, two-fold—firstly of an Indian war, the horrors and difficulties of which we have evidence of in the Modoc war now going on in the States, and secondly the lawlessness which is sure to arise when a Pacific Railway is being built, and when free traders from the American side of the line get among both Indians and Whites with their rascally whiskey. If the Government of Canada are wise they will not neglect to provide against these threatened and not very remote dangers, and will not allow themselves to be persuaded by Parliament to reduce the force now serving in Manitoba, but will increase it. Let the Indians be fairly and honorably treated, and let any treaties with them be honestly and scrupulously carried out, but in the event of trouble let us avoid repeating the almost fatal error of 1871 when the garrison of Fort Garry was reduced to two weak companies, and the whole of the North west came near being lost to Canada in consequence. I see by the debates in Parliament that Sir John A. Macdonald stated that it was the intention of Government to raise a mounted constabulary of 300 men for service in Manitoba, but this is not sufficient. It is all very well for Parliament to say that no spirituous liquors shall be imported into the Northwest, but how are 300 men to act as preventive officers for a frontier of 2,000 miles? If once the free traders (the vile scum of American frontier life who are the curse of all the Indian wars of the United States) get among your Indians with their whiskey then good bye to peace in the Northwest!

Let the Government raise a force of at least 600 mounted men on the model of the

Irish Constabulary, to be commanded by an officer of experience, imported if necessary from Ireland, and officered by good experienced men, (no political favorites), station them in small detachments at posts along the frontier, and have a good strong battalion of Infantry at Fort Garry to support them, and we may be able to govern and keep the magnificent country we have acquired.

Many members of Parliament do not seem to appreciate the responsibility Canada has assumed in undertaking to occupy and govern half a continent, but if we neglect the precautions I suggest, the cost of which will be insignificant compared with the objects to be attained, we will assuredly lose that territory which is destined to be the home of millions.

While alluding to what has yet to be done I must say that I think the Government could not have appointed a better soldier than Colonel Osborne Smith, C.M.G., who now commands the military district of Manitoba.

Yours,

RIFLEMAN.

6th May, 1873.

In an article on "Deep Sea Waves," in *Naval Science* for January, M. C. W. Merrifield, F. R. S., says: "The longest sea-waves observed appear to have been a little more than 200 yards in length, with a period of about eleven seconds. The highest regular sea-waves accurately observed appears to have had a height of not more than forty feet. The highest waves are generally very long but, for that very one reason, they are not the steepest. There seems good ground for believing that the greatest slope of the external surface of a wave in the open sea never reaches thirty degrees, and seldom exceeds fifteen. It is possible that in a storm there may be short portions of a wave surface exceptionally steep, as the result of superimposed waves, and these may be very dangerous to boats; but they do not represent the slope of the larger underlying waves from which a ship takes up its motion, nor do they occur at all in simple swell. Moreover, the vessel's own depth carries it below the surface wave, and the mean effective wave acting upon the ship is always less steep, and in short waves very much less steep than in the surface wave."

The fourth annual meeting of the Victoria Rifle Association took place on Monday afternoon, Lieut.-Col. Bethune in the chair. The report of the Sec.-Treasurer was submitted, showing a balance of \$94, and approved by the meeting. The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year: President, Lieut.-Col. Bethune; Vice-President, Lieut.-Col. Hutton; Sec.-Treasurer, Lieut. R. W. Campbell; Committee, Capt. Redpath, Lieut. Andrews, Sergt.-Major Solley, Messrs. Mathewson, Cochrane, Beers, MacLagan. It was decided to hold the annual competition towards the end of August next. After some further consultation about ammunition and time of practice, a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the meeting adjourned.