

bayonet exercise," while in others, manual and firing are two distinct subjects, and there is no bayonet exercise. Nos. 1 and 2 Districts are not required apparently to be examined in physical drill, while in other districts this obtains; the same applies to squad drill, while some battalions, where apparently there is a Government caretaker, have full marks for arms and armories; in others under same conditions, these marks are considerably cut down. The efficiency returns for the sake of comparison are evidently a delusion.

The Broad Arrow, in speaking of the review, etc., on Queen's Birthday in London, has the following remarks: "Ex-soldiers must have been struck by the new 'shoulder,' as well as by march past with sloped arms, and with the right arm swinging. The effect was good, the men moving with more freedom than hitherto, and with an unrestrained step. A very fine set of samples the men were, quite equal in physique, if not superior, to anything seen within the memory of, at all events, middle-aged men."

From the same paper I clip the following, which is important for Canadians in view of our adoption of the new rifle:

"We receive almost simultaneously two pieces of intelligence of no little importance. The one is that the Chartered Company's troops have discarded the Lee-Metford rifle in favor of the Martini-Henry on account of the defect of the former as regards stopping power. The other is, that experiments in India have resulted in such a modification of the Lee-Metford bullet as to give it the stopping power required. If the Indian military authorities have indeed solved the difficulty, they and the army generally are to be congratulated, for at present the small-bore bullet is a decidedly faulty missile. It is not to the credit of the Home authorities that they should have taken no steps in the matter. \* \* \* It must be remembered that in our fighting with savages a good deal of short range firing takes place, and we need something which will not merely inflict a mortal injury, but which will drop a charging Dervish or Pathan within at least a few yards."

The following accounts of inspectors of large bodies of the Church Lads' Brigade, from a late English paper, show the importance of this movement in the eyes of the Home authorities in sending general officers to inspect the force. The Canadian Government should do more for the Church Lads' Brigade, the Boys' Brigade and other cadet organizations for drill. The boys composing these are the future members of our active militia, and should be encouraged not only by the military authorities, but by each individual battalion. If this were done, and

proper drill instructors provided, our force would not have much difficulty in obtaining officers and recruits.

**CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE.**—A grand review of this brigade took place on Whitsun Monday, in Furzedown Park, Tooting Common. There was a large attendance of sympathisers with the movement. At the inspection 2,500 lads marched past General Lord Chelmsford. Those in command were Capt. Granville Smith, Lieut.-Col. Dalbiac, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Anderson, Lieut.-Col. Grene, and Capt. Johnson, R.E. Lord Chelmsford, at the close of the march past, congratulated the officers and non-commissioned officers on what he had witnessed. The boys had wonderfully improved during the past year. He never saw a body of men in better trim. They were, indeed, a credit to themselves and all concerned. But he would like to impress upon them that they were Church lads, and the credit of the Church of England to an extent was at their disposal. General Sir William Cameron (who made the inspection last year) had presented colors to the Rochester regiment; these would in future be competed for, one of the points being that two-thirds of the lads must attend a Bible-class. The dedication of the colors was then made by the Bishop of Honduras (representing the Bishop of Rochester). After the dedication prayers the Bishop addressed the lads, and begged of them to take care what company they kept and what literature they read. Later on there were athletic sports and a band competition. The presentation of prizes was made by Mrs. Dalbiac.

At Stanmore, the London Diocesan Church Lads' Brigade were entertained in the beautiful grounds of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Gordon. Some 1,250 boys, representing nearly sixty London parishes, paraded in excellent trim before General Sir George Higginson, K.C.B., late Lieutenant of the Tower and now commanding the Brigade of Guards. The boys went through their firing and manual exercises with remarkable precision. Several of the companies brought their bands, that of St. Saviour's, Hampstead, playing the march past. Sir George Higginson gratified the boys by appearing in full general's uniform and wearing his medals and orders; while Capt. Douglas Hamilton, of the Guards, acted as brigadier. Mr. E. A. Ford, the secretary, had general charge of the arrangements. After the inspection and march-past General Higginson addressed the boys and complimented them upon their earnestness and smartness. The Bishop of Marlborough also spoke. Afterwards Mrs. Earle and Lady Margaret Hamilton distributed medals for squad drill, physical drill, and for the largest Bible class—the latter medal going to Christ Church, North Finchley.

THOMAS ATKINS.

#### WITH THE ARMY.

**L**ONDON, Eng., June 3.—The Queen has been pleased to sanction the war medal issued by the Chartered Company of South Africa to commemorate the services of the officers and men who took part in the last Matabele war. The necessary authority for men of the regular army

to wear the decoration will shortly be issued in the form of an army order.

The United Service Gazette says: "The Canadian Minister of Militia and Defence is to be commended on having decided to follow the policy of his predecessor in sending to England each year a number of officers of the permanent force to undergo courses of instruction with the Imperial forces. Five of these officers have recently arrived, viz.: Lieut. Col. Cotton, of the Royal Canadian Artillery; Lieut. Col. Gordon, of the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry; Major Roy, of the Militia Staff; Capt. Ogilvie, of the Royal Canadian Artillery, and Capt. Forrester, of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. Capt. G. B. Appleton, aide-de-camp to the general officer commanding the troops in Victoria, and Lieut. W. C. Rivett, Victorian Artillery, are also to visit Aldershot. They will be afforded special facilities for seeing the artillery service."

The 53rd annual meeting of the National Association for the Employment of Reserve Soldiers was held in London the other day. The association during the past year had been successful in obtaining employment for 4,285 men, the largest number yet recorded.

In a speech at the opening of a new drill hall for the 4th Volunteer Battalion Hants Regiment, Bournemouth, Lord Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief, expressed the opinion "that the nation ought to value the auxiliary forces more than it did. If the volunteers had not been called into existence the regular army must necessarily have been three times larger than at present."

It is felt in service circles that strict enquiry should be made into the assertions that have been freely made that a large proportion of the new regulation infantry sword hilts are being imported from Germany. It is claimed that evidence of the Customs officers at the port of London would show that these hilts bear the words "Made in Germany." The sword cutler from whom the officer gets his sword removes the offensive words, so that even although the Secretary for War would look at the infantry officers' weapons the words would be missing. It is high time that such a state of matters should be stopped. The German Emperor must be highly amused at the fact that the British soldiers use hilts manufactured in his country.

The Royal Military Tournament was a