

principally aims at is the improvement and training of the Militia or National Guard, as well as the soldiers of the army of the United States to the use of the rifle. Such a course, being highly commendable, as it is on the militia of the different states that the country must depend for its defence.

There can be no doubt but the promoters of this Association are engaged in a highly patriotic, useful, and laudable work. Arms of precision are worthless without the necessary skill to use them, nor will great proficiency in science and mechanical skill be available to supply the want of expert marksmen in the hour of trial. It is to be hoped that the Dominion Rifle Association will organize a team to contest at the coming matches in May. There can be no doubt of the value of those friendly military contests and expeditions. But it must be evident to any one who will take the trouble to think over the matter, that their distinctive military character must be preserved, and we trust that whether the Canadian team at the New York Wimbledon be organised by "The Dominion Rifle Association" or as far as appearances indicate by individual patriotism and exertion, it is to be hoped that this principle will be kept steadily in view and that no person should be allowed to join it without entering into a written agreement to submit to strict military control and discipline; in fact, to live and act like soldiers during the period they will be engaged, in those friendly trials of skill.

Our correspondent inquired as to the price of hotel living while in the States. We cannot answer the query satisfactorily, but in order to place it within the means of all, the better plan would be to organize the teams to live in camp during the whole time, and to proceed to Long Island as well as return by sea.

The details necessary to render an expedition of this kind pleasant and amusing to the parties engaged therein, must be left to the leaders, who will, if careful, make a great success reflect honor and credit upon themselves, and be of great advantage to this country, because men that know how to handle their arms will be always respected.

The tents, blankets, and camp equipage should be supplied by the Militia Department, and we have no doubt that on proper application even greater advantages would be accorded. The design of a Canadian team, and it should be numerically strong, commends itself as a move in the right direction, and should receive every encouragement as well as support.

THE canal system of the United States affords facilities for the conveyance of the heavier articles of production in a country where only *one third* of the population is engaged in manual industry. In the State of New York those outlets of commerce assume gigantic

proportions, and are thus described by the *New York Times*:

"Of the number of men and women who are engaged upon the State canals, and otherwise employed in connection with the trade carried over them, the general reader has only a faint conception. Even those who are familiar with the statistics of canal boat building, with the number in use during the season of canal navigation, and the number of persons required for the management and care of single craft, have but incomplete information of the whole number who depend upon the commerce of the canals for support. Nor is the aggregate length of the canals known to many even among those who are employed upon single lines. In the aggregate, the canals in the State of New York are eight hundred and thirty-four miles in length. The Erie extends from Buffalo to Albany, three hundred and fifty miles; the Chenango, from Binghamton to Utica, ninety-seven miles; the Genesee Valley, from Orleans to Rochester, 95 miles; a branch of the same from Seneca to Danville, twenty miles; the Black River, from Rome to Carthage, including a distance of forty-two miles by river, seventy-seven miles; the Chemung, from Elmira to Montezuma, including a distance of thirty-five miles through Seneca Lake, eighty miles; The St. Paul's, branch of the Erie, from Montezuma to Seneca Falls, thirty miles; and the Delaware and Hudson, from Honesdale, Penn., to a point on the Hudson River opposite Rhinebeck, about eighty-five miles of which are in the State of New York. These, in the season, are navigated by nearly 7,000 different boats, or on an average of eight boats to each mile of the canal. Of these boats the largest have each a carrying capacity for 225 tons of assorted cargo, or 2,000 barrels of flour, or 8,000 bushels of grain. The smaller boats have a carrying capacity of 125 tons, in proportion as indicated above. The average cost for the construction of the boats used is, for the larger, \$5,000, and for the smaller, about \$2,000. The average monthly cost of running, including tolls and towing, is about \$800 per boat, which, it will be seen, involves a very large capital for simply the running expenses of a season. The men nearly all complain of the manner in which the canals have been managed by the State authorities, and express the hope earnestly that the next Legislature will inaugurate a reform. They charge the great falling off in the canal trade upon the failures to keep the canals in proper order and the heavy tolls, by which, they declare, a vast business which now seeks railway and other conveyances has been driven away. They are anxious that the "West" should be induced to return to the canals with all its proper work, and they insist upon it that a proper system of repairs and charges would secure a return and large additional profit to the State. Soon after the opening of the Legislature attention will be called to the canal question and many reforms asked, by the adoption of which a large increase of trade will, it is supposed, be the result."

The following article from the *New York Sun* of the 22nd March, depicts so accurately the feelings of the great mass of the Canadian people on the question of a close political alliance with the United States, and describes so well the political institutions of the Model Republic, that we reproduce it for the benefit of our English readers. It is quite possible the *Times* and its masters may not insist to know the facts, but they exist nevertheless.

"Probably these political leaders at Washington and elsewhere who make a business of getting rich by means of their public positions, care very little about the effect which their corruption may produce upon the reputation of the United States in foreign countries, just as no pickpocket or burglar cares very little about the effect of his crimes upon his standing among the honest men of the community where he lives. And yet the good name of the country abroad is of some consequence.

A correspondent of the *Cincinnati Commercial*, who has recently been in Northern Minnesota, saw there a number of Canadian citizens from Manitoba, and asked one of them what he thought about annexation, and how he and his people would like to belong to the United States. "I don't want any of it in my time," he said abruptly. "Is that the general feeling?" "Yes; you cannot find one Canadian in twenty who would consent to annexation. If ever we join the United States, it will be at the point of the bayonet. Why, now we are freer than you are, and have not so much taxes to pay. You are taxed to death in your rotten Republic, and don't know it. Your Congressmen and officials at Washington steal more than what it takes to run our whole Government in Canada. Do you suppose that we outside people, knowing these things as well as we do, want to put our destinies under such a government? The theory of yours is good enough, I know; but corruption and imbecility have corroded it, until what you call the best Government the world ever saw has become the worst one.

"Not the least evil of the dishonesty, fraud, and contempts for principles which have taken possession of our rulers, is the well nigh fatal check given thereby to the progress of republican ideas and institutions of self government in other parts of the world. America, once the guiding star of humanity, is fast being made its warning and its abomination."

We publish this week General Orders of the British Army, of 1st December, 1872, referring to dress regulations, for the benefit of our military readers, and in order to show when the uniform can be worn with propriety. It is not often Canadian officers offend by sporting full dress on out of the way occasions. Indeed as a rule they are very chary of exhibiting their distinctive costume at all—but there is a breach of etiquette and propriety, in the negation of the rules in this case as well as in the abuse thereof. Both can be avoided by adopting the regulations pointed out in the General Orders.

In reply to numerous inquiries made by Volunteer officers respecting their uniforms the best answer that we can give is a reference to the Regulations regarding the subject. By the 215th article of the Regulations and orders for the Active Militia of the Dominion of Canada, adopted by the Governor General in Council, 4th March, 1870, under the authority of the 96th section of the 31st Vic. Chap. 40, (Militia Act,) published in the *Official Gazette*, 12th March, 1870, and subsequently submitted to Parliament within the first 30 days of the next session thereof, it is provided that "the uniform of the Militia is similar to that worn by the Regular Army, with the exception that in the Infantry, *silver* lace is substituted for *gold*—and the facings of Infantry corps clothed in scarlet are *blue*, those of Rifle corps, scarlet."

We are not aware of any further regulations having reference to the uniform of the officers of any Infantry Corps.