

THE ARMY.—The *Times* well observes that England cannot aim at more as regards its army than maintaining a military force sufficiently powerful to meet the ordinary needs of our Empire, and capable of expansion in case of an emergency. It is no valid criticism to say that it does not exist in a state of expansion. We do within certain limits expect our people to rise to a sudden or a great occasion, but we think it unreasonable to call on them to be always in the fighting attitude which great European emergencies might require. England must rely as she has always relied on her power to make an exceptional effort in response to an exceptional emergency.

The *Standard* says compulsory service is impossible, and the nation must put its hand in its pocket, and raise the rate of pay in order to surmount the present crisis in military affairs.

In 1874 Russia expended 788,000,000 francs in maintaining the army; France, 719,000,000; Germany, 488,000,000; England, 378,000,000; Austria, 255,000,000; and Italy, 210,000,000; Total, 2,838,000,000—a sum of money about equal to \$567,600,000. The number of armed men which this huge sum was required to maintain amounted in 1874 to an effective force of 2,121,000 men. It would seem that England pays the highest price per soldier, Italy and Austria the lowest price, and Germany and France less than half the sum it costs England.

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 25.—The memorial ceremonies were the grandest ever witnessed in the South. The procession was over a mile in length. As the objects of special interest were seen at the head of mounted ex-Confederates Gen. Forrest and the surviving members of his staff, while the Mexican veterans were led by General Gideon J. Pillow. In one carriage were two large flags, Federal and Confederate, made entirely of flowers, the latter partly furled, and the national flag flung to the breeze. The number of ex-Federal officers participating in the procession was a hundred, representing nearly every State in the Union. Everything passed off well, and the general impression prevails that nothing since the war has occurred to so completely break down the barriers between North and South, and unite the whole people.

It is estimated that an expenditure of \$4,850,000 will be incurred during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, on the construction of the Canada Pacific Railway. Four and a quarter million dollars are estimated to be expended on Dominion canals during the same period.

A new idea of the disposition of the dead has recently been broached in Paris, by a lady, Mlle. Jaloureau, which is both simple and practical, and certainly appears to offer a means of avoiding the deleterious results ascribed to the presence of cemeteries while allowing of the retention of those, by most people, hollowed resting places. The objects sought were, first, a coffin which should closely confine all noxious exhalations, and second, a means of hastening decomposition while preventing putrid fermentation. These desiderata, it is said, are effectually obtained, the first by coating the interior of the receptacle with bitumen or asphalt, and the second, by placing with the body a quantity of phosphate of lime. The editor of the *Les Nondes* in describing this invention, asserts that corpses thus enclosed may be kept for years without alteration, save in the mummification of the bodies, and he adds that the process is virtually the same as that of the Chinese and ancient Hebrews.

The growth of the 81 ton gun is vigorously proceeding, and its immense proportions are becoming more apparent at every stage. The inner tube and some of the strengthening coils have been shrunk together, and the gun in its embryo state now stands half hidden in the new shrinking pits at the Royal Gun Factories at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, waiting until the crane above it is sufficiently strengthened to lift it out. Beside it rests the great double coil which is to encompass the breach, after it has been welded into compactness under the great hammer, and the only remaining portion, the trunnion ring, which is to be shrunk on over all, lies close by. This trunnion ring is believed to be the largest forging ever made, and it has cost about £600. The double coil will be welded some time during the present week, and the operation will be carried out during the night, in order to avoid any risk of disturbance by spectators. The 40-ton hammer, which was thought fit for anything in the shape of gun-making when it was erected about a year ago, will be only just large enough to deal with this great coil, and should any further advance made in the size of the Woolwich Infants, a still more powerful hammer will have to be provided. The coil stands about eight feet high, and when it is placed upright on the anvil, there will be very little free play for the hammer.



NOTICE.

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

OTTAWA, 10th May, 1875.

NOTICE is hereby given that His Excellency, the Governor-General, by an Order in Council bearing date the 7th inst., and under the authority vested in him by the 3rd section of the 34th Victoria, Cap. 10, has been pleased to order and direct that the following articles be transferred to the list of goods, which may be imported into Canada free of duty, viz:—

- "Sheet German silver."
- "Box wood."

By command, J. JOHNSON,
Commissioner of Customs.

May 20, 1875. 21-3



Department of Militia and Defence

TENDERS will be received until noon on the 15th day of June, 1875, for the supply of such Cloth of Canadian Manufacture as may be required for Uniform Clothing for the Militia, during the current year, the cloth to be regulation colours, viz: Oxford Mixture, Scarlet, Green and Blue; and to be furnished in such proportions as may be required.

Patterns may be seen, and further information will be given on application.

The department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

W. POWELL, Colonel,
Adjutant-General.

Ottawa, April 30th, 1875. 18

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