

Lt. Col. Bacon, secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, says that after carefully going over the scores made at the matches on the Rideau Range he discovered that the best scores were made by those who used Dominion cartridges. According to the rules marksmen could use either English or Dominion ammunition. In the grand aggregate matches the winners and most of the top scores were made with the Dominion cartridges; in the nursery the first and second men shot Canadian ammunition; in the Hamilton Powder Company's, the first twelve; in the McDougall, the first nineteen; in the Dominion, the top scorer; in the Minister of Militia, the first twenty-five; in the Kirkpatrick, the first eight, and in the Henshaw, the first seven. This is considered a pretty good test of the quality of Canadian ammunition.

### QUEBEC.

L'Electeur has the following referring to General Herbert and the Cardinal:—"General Herbert set a beautiful example yesterday at the swearing in of the new Governor-General. On perceiving his Eminence Cardinal Taschereau seated near the throne, the General, who is a good Catholic, at once bent the knee to kiss the pontifical ring on the Cardinal's hand. This action, on the part of a man filling so high a position as the commandant of the military forces of the Dominion, and belonging to one of the noblest families of England, is a lesson for many of our Catholics, who affect to disdain these marks of respect towards our most exalted ecclesiastical dignitaries."

### NEWS OF THE PARENT SERVICES

Major-General Mansfield Clarke left England for India on the 29th ult to take over the command of the Madras Army. His military secretary will be Major Kekewich, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and his galloper Captain the Hon. F. R. Bingham, R. A.

The Queen has approved of the appointment of General Sir C. G. Arbuthnot, K.C.B., as a Colonel Commandant of Royal Artillery, vice General Sir Edward Hamley, deceased.

A young Englishman, says the Army and Navy Journal has recently imposed upon many officers of the United States Navy, and also upon his countrymen in various cities, by representing himself with much plausibility as the son of W. H. White, Esq., Director of Naval Construction and Assistant Controller of the English Navy. Mr. White's only son is a midshipman on board the Blake in the West Indies.

By the retirement on reaching the age of sixty-five of Admiral Sir Anthony H. Hoskins, K.C.B., the Navy lose; one of its ablest officers. Sir Anthony is emphatically a "strong" man, who has won warm admirers and much dislike, his praise being unstinted where he

thought it was deserved and his castigations severe where he found any shortcoming. It is popularly supposed that he has been the leading spirit of that older school of officers who condemn everything savouring of the engine-room, and that he has been an active opponent of the claims of the engineers for improved pay and status. Sir Anthony entered the Navy over fifty years ago, and served in the Kaffir war, in which he took part as a lieutenant, in the China war of four or five years latter, and in that of 1882 in Egypt. Except on that occasion and for a couple of years during which he commanded the Mediterranean Squadron, Sir Anthony had been employed at Whitehall for many years as Superintendent of Naval Reserves, or as a Lord of the Admiralty. The post which he now gives up is that of First Sea Lord, in which he is succeeded by the next in order of seniority at the Board, Admiral Sir Frederick W. Richards.

The Army and Navy Gazette says: Everyone will regret the retirement from active service of Rear-Admiral Francis Durrant, C.M.G., and its cause. Admiral Durrant formerly commanded Osborne. When the Duke of York and the late Duke of Clarence had finished their cruise in the Bacchante in 1883, Captain Durrant's vessel, the Canada, on the North American and West Indies Station, was selected for Prince George to complete his training as a midshipman in. Captain Durrant was subsequently employed at the Admiralty as assistant to the Admiral Superintendent of Naval Reserves. In the beginning of 1891 he attained flag rank, but ill-health has now, we are sorry to learn, necessitated his retirement.

Experiments are proceeding in India with a view to testing the destructive action of cordite gases in the Lee-Metford rifle. The introduction of a thick wad into the cartridge has certainly reduced the damage done, which is usually at the point in the barrel where the bullet is "set up" immediately after the explosion of the charge. The wad acts as a sort of cushion for the gas, allowing greater space for expansion, and thus lessening the pressure on the barrel. Over 2,000 rounds have been fired from a rifle without any ill-effects being shown, but it is desired to reach double that number, as, on an average, each soldier fires 300 rounds per year. The "life" of a rifle should be ten years at least, and with careful handling it should last 14 years if not used on a campaign. The Snider, which was originally very strongly constructed, was made to last over 20 years, until the rifling was almost worn out, and now as a breach-loading smooth-bore in the hands of the military police it is still a serviceable weapon. The curious thing about cor-

dite is that in field-guns it is less destructive than black-powder, except in the matter of the vent, where the gas causes rapid erosion. This is being got over by special appliances, and it is not likely that any new smokeless explosive will be adopted for the British Army. India, for the present, will rely upon cordite exported from England.

For the first time in the history of public dinners, a woman has responded to the toast. "The army." The occasion was a dinner in honor of the British trained nurses, and the response was by Miss Lock, superintendent of the Indian army nursing service.

The long and close competition between rival machine guns has resulted in favor of the Maxim. It has been decided that hereafter, in the offensive equipment of British war vessels, the Maxim gun shall take the place of the five-barrel. Nordenfolt and Gardner guns. The first to carry the new guns will be the cruiser Bonaventure, and she is to have four of them in her armament.—Scientific American.

A new type of illuminated gunsight has been devised at Elswick. The foresight consists of a socket which fits on to the ordinary day sight, and carries a small electric lamp inside it, which illuminates a small glass conical tip on the foresight. The rearsight is on the same principle, but the electric light illuminates a wire making the cross of the H, which forms the naval rearsight. The foresight is enameled red to distinguish it from the rearsight.

One of the memorials of the late Admiral Sir George Tryon which was found floating in the water after the foundering of H.M.S. Victoria was the despatch box containing the code of signals. This box was lined with lead and perforated with holes, so as to insure its sinking, and the great battleship was especially designed to float as long as possible, and yet she sank and the weighted despatch box floated.

The estimates for new war vessels, as announced in the House of Commons September 8, are as follows: England, £2,988,000; France, £2,918,000; Russia, £1,692,000; Germany, £947,000; Italy, £1,000,000.

The new British battleship Majestic and Magnificent will head the list in point of size. They will be 390 feet long, 75 feet broad, 37½ feet deep, of 14,900 tons displacement, and 17½ knots maximum speed. Instead of 76-ton guns—the biggest used in the later ironclads—they will carry four 50-tonners, 12-inch calibre, and capable of being loaded by hand, as well as by