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## A REMINISCENCE OF THE "TRENT" AFFAIR.

"It is just 31 years ago," said Mr. John Nunn, past president of the Army and Navy Veterans, and late of the 16th Bedfordshire regiment, "when our regiment, 900 strong, disembarked from the transport *Persia* at a small village 76 miles below Riviere du Loup. It was the time of the Trent affair, you remember, and every man believed that war was to be declared immediately and the belief was fully shared by Canadians. At least their actions led us to suppose so. Sleighs were provided by the habitants, who could not do too much for us. We were received along the route most cordially, and the hospitality displayed towards the troops was unlimited. Snow lay on the ground and we were compelled to stand up in the sleighs, but the warmth of the welcome made up for all discomforts. We went by rail from Riviere du Loup to Montreal and were received by the population en masse, the streets being so densely crowded that we were compelled to march two deep, and even then the ranks were broken by the impetuous enthusiasm of the loyal people of Montreal, who in many instances carried the soldiers on their shoulders. There is a certain amount of nonsense being talked about annexation, but I believe that the same feeling exists in Canada to-day as existed at the time of the reception of the British soldiery when war was daily expected to be declared, and that if anything now occurred that threatened the honor of the flag that waves over both Britain and Canada, the same feeling would animate both Britons and Canadians as was then displayed. It is said somewhere that it requires a great national question, tinged merely with an affront or a right withheld, to cause a people to display the depth of their national sentiment. The reception given to us by the French-Canadians would give me a certain amount of belief in the statement of Sir George E. Cartier that the last shot fired for British connection on this continent would be fired by a French-Canadian, if I were not convinced that a last shot never will be fired, and also know that the Army and Navy Veterans of Toronto will then exist."—*Empire*.

## A NEW MACHINE-GUN.

Nine hundred shots per minute were fired by a new machine gun invented by Messrs. Browning Brothers, of Ogden, Utah, and recently tested at New Haven by the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. This beats the record of the Maxim machine-gun by about 150 shots per minute. The new annihilator has a water jacket which holds a gallon of water, surrounding the barrel, and when the gun is at work this water supply is evaporated in one minute. In experiments made without the water jacket, the barrel was too hot for safety in less than half a minute. The breech is loaded from a continuous web belt, holding the cartridges in pockets. The representatives of the Krupp, Armstrong, and Canet guns have been fighting a wordy but bloodless battle upon the question of the killing capacities of their respective weapons. The initial velocity of the largest of these projectiles now exceeds half a mile per second, and the penetrating energy varies from 200 to 300 foot tons per pound of powder, with a momentum of about 80,000 foot tons, which means that a mass

of metal can be hurled forth with a destructive power something like that of the average railway collision. Canet claims to do you as much injury as Krupp or Armstrong for half the money, and with greater simplicity and elegance. These things have a savage and barbarous sound about them, but there can be no question they are among the triumphs of civilization, they are authentic foot-prints of the march of intellect.

## THE NEW GERMAN ARMY BILL.

The German Military Staff, when in earnest, are wonderfully frank. A writer in the *Militar Wochenblatt*, known to represent their opinion, defends the new army bill, declaring that in the event of the great war the Russian army is so superior to that of the Austria-Hungary that Germany would have to help her on the eastern frontier, while fighting France herself on the western, with the assistance only of part of the Italian army, brought up through the Tyrol. Italy would not be able to invade France, and would have the greatest difficulty in defending her own coasts against an attack from the French fleet. Germany, therefore, would be nearly alone, while she would have to face a France very different from the France of 1870. "The conquered always learn more from experience than the conquerors do." It would be impossible to enter France without carrying part of her line of fortresses, and Russia also can fall back on fortresses, while she is defended by the character of her territory, which baffled even Napoleon. It is indispensable, therefore, that Germany should put her whole population in the field, and thus avail herself of her superiority in population, a superiority of quite ten millions over France. This is very plain speaking, and is certainly free from any taint of boastfulness, the extraordinary advance made by France being fully recognised.—*Spectator*.

## CAVALRY AGAINST INFANTRY.

A writer in the *Revue de Cavalerie*, discoursing on "Cavalry in Contact with Infantry," says that the percentage of hits in peace practice is not to be relied on as indicating what it would be in battle. The most deadly zone of fire, according to peace returns, extends some 650 yards in front of the muzzles of the rifles, but this is by no means borne out in actual war. It was not so at Plevna, Froswiler, Spichenen, or St. Privat. The close approach of danger shakes the nerves and quickens the muscular action in such a way that the nearest zone of fire is really the most innocuous, and it is only at the long ranges, when men are not in immediate peril, that the practice fairly corresponds with the musketry returns of ordinary times. With regard to the training of cavalry to fight on foot, this author propounds the following "essential principles: "Fighting on foot has always been, and must always remain, merely "an expedient." It may be employed against cavalry in exceptional circumstances, each case being determined according to its own peculiarities. Against infantry it will generally have the character of a demonstration, and be combined with the offensive action of a mounted contingent; but in all cases the "solution" must be effected by means of the sabre.