

to very rough usage. Fixed in a machine it is struck with immense violence against wood and iron, on edge, back, and both sides, and not a few blades succumb to the trial. Batches of blades vary very much, the loss by breakage being sometimes as low as ten, and as high as 40 per cent. The blades which pass successfully through this tremendous ordeal are pronounced trustworthy, and will pierce or cut through an iron plate without suffering any perceptible damage. A good blade being secured, it is ground and polished, great care being taken that the hard surface "scale" shall be disturbed as little as possible; the grip covered with dog-fish skin is affixed, the steel scabbard lined with wood properly fitted, and the sword is ready for its work.

A sabre cut as made by Europeans, is a chop or a slash, differing entirely from the slicing cut administered by Indian swordsmen, who, instead of making a downright blow from the shoulder or forearm, keep the wrist and elbow stiff, and, making a sweeping cut, throw the whole force of the body into the blow. On foot this tulwar cut is not difficult to parry, and is in general efficiency inferior to "point"; but on horseback it is very embarrassing, as was found by our troopers during the Sikh war and the war of the Mutiny. But the tulwar is useless for defensive purposes, and can only be used on the principle of the old Hungarian hussar, who, having taught a recruit all the regular cuts, was asked when he was going to give him instruction in parrying. "Parry!" roared the veteran, "parry!" What the deuce do you mean? Keep on cutting, and let the enemy parry!"—*Colburn's*.

Gleanings.

England pays her retired and half-pay officers an annual sum of \$9,078,245.

There can be little doubt but that another gunnery revolution is close at hand. Quick firing has reached the 100-pr. 6-in. gun, and given it 2,400 ft. initial velocity against 1850 of the present type, with a penetration of perhaps 16 in. at 1,000 yards. The gun is fired shoulder at the rate of two rounds per minute.

A torpedo range at Horsea Island, Portsmouth, costing £100,000, has just been completed and taken over by the Vernon Torpedo School. The range, some half-mile in length, has been constructed for experimental purposes in connection with the discharge and flight of torpedoes, and with its canal, lock, quays, wharves, tramways, firing pier, and offices, forms a prominent feature in the view of Portsmouth Harbour as seen from the surrounding heights.

The Australasian colonies have now a population of nearly 3,600,000, viz.: New South Wales, 1,044,000; Victoria, 1,035,945; Queensland, 359,059; South Australia, 315,000; Tasmania, 140,711; Western Australia, 44,532; and New Zealand, 645,615. The principal centres of population are Melbourne and its suburbs, estimated at 400,000; Sydney, 370,000; Adelaide, 135,000; Brisbane, 55,000; Hobart, 30,000; and Wellington, New Zealand, 28,000.

Next year the British Mediterranean Squadron is to be increased from six to nine armourclads, to which will be added seven cruisers and a due proportion of torpedo craft. The armourclads will have four-fifths of their crews on board. Several distant stations are to be abandoned, so that more money may be spent at home, and before the end of the year three new armourclads and two new cruisers will be added to the strength of the fleet; in 1889, two armourclads and eight cruisers; in 1890, two armourclads and one cruiser; in 1891, one armourclad and three cruisers; in 1892, two armourclads and one cruiser.

Apropos of Primrose day and the very uncomplimentary allusions to that flower in Lord Beaconsfield's books, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, discussing the origin of the myth, says that when Lord Beaconsfield was buried the Queen sent a wreath of primroses and wrote on a card attached to the wreath, "His favourite flower." Her Majesty, referred, of course, to the late Prince Consort; but her words were misunderstood to mean that the primrose was Lord Beaconsfield's favorite flower. Hence the newspaper allusions to "the flower he loved so well," and the annual celebration of Primrose day. The explanation of the myth has long been current among Beaconsfield's colleagues, but for obvious reasons they did not care to make it public.

General Trochu has expressed in an interview his belief that the recent meeting between Prince Bismarck and Premier Crispi will prove the forerunner of a European congress at which the question of disarmament will be raised. He thinks the result of such a congress would be to force France into a final renunciation of Alsace-Lorraine. He admits that such a move might kindle war, but does not credit the theory that Bismarck has bellicose projects. He believes that the German Chancellor desires nothing more than to rest on his laurels. On the general

European situation, Gen. Trochu expressed the opinion that Europe would be upside down before the century is out, as an armed-peace can never endure. Gen. Trochu is writing memoirs for publication after his death, for the benefit of his heirs, as he has no fortune to bequeath.

The expediency of issuing revolvers to the officers of the Massachusetts militia has been under consideration for two or three months. A board have considered not only the question of the pattern of the revolver to be selected, but the general question of the advisability of the issue. It is understood that they take quite a conservative view of the matter, and in a general way do not deem it a matter of present importance that any militia officer shall be armed with revolvers. But, if there is to be any issue, they suggest that it be confined to mounted officers, whose experience will be, later on, useful in determining the wisdom of extending the issue to the infantry line. As to the infantry, it is held that the active participation and leadership of the company officers are absolutely necessary to maintain the efficiency of the rank and file in rifle practice, and that a division of the officers' attention to revolvers may not be beneficial.—*Boston Rifle*.

A button shield, on which is fastened an officer's button from every regiment in the British army, under the old system, is exhibited in Mr. Bruckhol's window today. These buttons were collected by Mr. W. H. Love, of Saint John, and six years were occupied by him in gathering them together. In seeking for them he wrote 584 letters, sending them to all parts of the world where a British regiment has ever been stationed. The button-makers in London with whom Mr. Love had been in correspondence have written to him that they feel satisfied there is not such another collection in existence. One of the buttons in the collection—the 8th Royal Irish—was sent from Umballa, Bengal, after nine months search, to a London button-making firm, who forwarded it to Mr. Love. He has been offered £25 for the collection by a retired officer, but has refused it.—*St. John Globe*.

If an Indian is killed in a quarrel his relatives are usually appeased by payment. I remember once a fancy overbearing young Assiniboine buck came into the Milk River Agency and bent his bow and arrow on the agent's pet dog. The agent warned him if he shot the dog he would kill the Indian. The young buck shot his arrow, the agent killed him. We expected to have some trouble, but the grief-stricken father came forward on behalf of the relatives and claimed that, in consideration of the young man being such a good buffalo runner, the agent must pay for the loss of such a person a red blanket, a piece of calico and four pounds of sugar. He complied with their demands, but the vengeful relatives thereafter adopted him as their banker. The mother and other relatives of the slain young man scarcely ever met the agent without embracing him and with endearing epithets begged for something more in remembrance of the good buffalo runner.—*Forest and Stream*.

The *Weser Zeitung* gives an account of an interesting series of trials recently made in Germany for testing the value of the electric light in night firing. The targets were placed at a range of 400 metres from the riflemen, while the electric light generator was situated 200 metres behind the firing party. The apparatus consisted of a steam engine, an electric dynamo mounted on a carriage, and a projector. The steam engine registered 18 horse-power. The light was obtained from an incandescent lamp, which may be placed at a distance of 200 metres from the dynamo. The intensity of the cone of light produced by the arc is so great that pencil writing can be read at 4,000 metres. The result of the experiments was that nine shots out of ten struck the targets. The apparatus can only be placed at *hors de combat* if a shot should strike and break one of the carbon supports; but this is an extremely improbable contingency. The illuminating waggon, as it is called, has been attached to the Prussian Engineers, and will be used in the defence of fortresses. Its weight is too considerable to admit of its being extensively used in the field.

Militia General Orders (No. 15), of 7th September, 1888.

No. 1.—DISTRICT STAFF.

Adverting to No. 4 of General Orders (8), 27th April, 1888, Lieutenant Colonel William Hayes Jackson (late Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 1), and Lieut. Col. Antoine C. de Lotbinière Harwood (late Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 6), have been placed on the Retired List retaining their rank of Lieutenant Colonel, from 1st July, 1888.

Lieutenant Colonel George E. A. Hughes, Brigade Major 4th, 5th and 6th Brigade Divisions, Que., retires retaining rank of Lieutenant Colonel, from 30th April, 1888.

No. 2.—TRAINING OF MOUNTED INFANTRY.

In future the training of Mounted Infantry will be carried out in accordance with the following synopsis:—

1. Riding without arms.