

AN editorial writer in the *U.S. Army and Navy Journal* has been spreading himself in the promulgation of a scheme to have British Columbia turned over to the States, for a financial consideration, as Russia surrendered Alaska to the enterprising Americans, who have since found their bargain to be a highly profitable one. This writer appears to be rather badly posted on his subject, and to be oblivious of the vastly increased importance of British Columbia to the empire since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway has provided through that province a new route to the British possessions in the East. The article referred to says: "The question of boundary between Alaska and the Canadian North-West is beginning to disturb the English. It is not impossible that this may settle itself if matters in British Columbia continue as they are. Why does not England do as Russia has done, and turn over to us a territory which is of so little use to her, which she cannot defend in case of war, and which by natural sympathy and affiliation, as well as by the inevitable gravitation of commercial interest, is hastening to unite her fortunes with ours? Suppose British Columbia were compelled at any time to choose between non-intercourse with the United States, and making common cause with us against the mother country, is her loyalty of that fervid sort which would stand the test? And if it is not to be depended upon is it worth while to face the possibility of having to dispute the possession of a distant province whose sole value is in its cordial devotion to the interests of the British Empire?"

THE boundary question will in all probability be very shortly settled, as the result of surveys now being carried on by the Canadian government. Any hope that may linger in United States bosoms of ever securing possession of our Pacific province is surely doomed to disappointment. There are still, with Britain and Britishers, some things that money cannot buy and that cannot be influenced by financial as opposed to patriotic considerations. Even were it commercially of advantage to British Columbia to join the southern confederation we fancy that the loyalty of the inhabitants would be found to be just "of that fervid sort" which would cause it to remain true to its name and to the grand old mother land.

THE appointment of British officers to the higher commands in the Australian army has been the subject of considerable discussion in that colony of late, and in this connection the *Colonial Military Gazette*, just lately established, has the following: "With reference to our remarks on the employment of Imperial officers in the higher commands, we should like to add that in course of time, if a military school were established for the thorough training of colonial officers, there is no earthly reason why native-born Australians who never even saw the old country should not succeed to the *highest* commands. It is not alone because Imperial officers are Britishers that we prefer them to Colonial officers in positions where the possession of high professional attainments is desirable, but because the former class have had the advantages of a professional training which is not at present within the reach of the latter."

NOTICING the establishment of the paper from which the above quotation is made the *Volunteer Service Gazette* says: "We note that in the matter of military papers our colonies are coming to the front, and thus giving unmistakable evidence that increased interest is taken by the volunteers in their work and organization." This will bear supplementing. Not only is the existence of a recognized organ an evidence that the force is taking interest in its work, but also it shows an important step has been taken towards enlisting greater interest on the part of the public. And to the force in Canada we would like to

point out once more that in proportion as a paper is more heartily supported and widely circulated, so its influence, and its usefulness to the body of which it is the mouthpiece, will increase.

"THE OHIO SOLDIER," is the title of a new military publication the initial numbers of which we have just received. Its headquarters will be at Chillicothe, Ohio. The *Soldier* will bear critical inspection. It is published in quarto form, with pages a little larger than those of this paper, and its typographical appearance is exceptionally neat, while the reading matter, original and selected, gives evidence of the truth of the editor's statement in his prospectus, that "the publication of a paper is no new thing to us." It is announced that the paper will be an organ of the Grand Army of the Republic, but that marked attention will also be paid to matters relating to the militia and especially to the Ohio National Guard. We gladly welcome this latest addition to our exchange list, and predict a long term of service for the *Soldier*, that is if it receive the encouragement its merits deserve.

A HANDBOOK for the use of the Canadian force, similar to that suggested in the paragraph quoted below, from the *U. S. Army and Navy Journal*, would, we think, be of very great value. It need not necessarily be of government issue to serve the purpose required. Is there any well-informed officer of the militia who will go to the trouble of preparing the work? The paragraph referred to is as follows: "The time seems opportune for calling attention to the importance to the army of having a field book, containing general methods of marching, camping, guard and picket duty, as well as for convoys, patrol and outpost duty. The book should also be a manual of expedients in the field, as for temporary shelters, simple intrenchments, and methods of improvised defence, management of transports, shipping and care of men and animals, loading and transporting supplies by trains as well as at sea, etc. We might mention a thousand other items which at present are scattered through many text books and are not embraced in any general system of military instruction or manual. The book we have in mind should also define, as well as limit, tactical instruction, and should prescribe, if at all possible, practical problems for each arm and command as well as for combined arms."

#### Personal.

Capt. Thos. S. Blackwell of the 54th, who is quite a frequent contributor to magazine literature, is the author of a highly interesting narrative entitled "My first Seal," which appears in *Outing* for this month.

The Honolulu rifles, about half the standing army of Kalakaua, are commanded by Colonel Volney V. Ashford, who is a Canadian by birth. He served in the war of the rebellion, and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Probably the youngest rifle shot in Canada is to be found figuring prominently amongst the prize winners at the recent provincial matches in New Brunswick. This young man, who is but fifteen years old, is Bandsman Reginald Arnold, a son of Major Arnold of the 74th Batt. Amongst the prizes he won was the first in the maiden aggregate.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is exercised over the yarn that Imperial troops were to be secured to prevent the building of the Red river railroad. It says: "The notion of sending redcoats into the heart of the American continent to forbid the population of a great province from building a national outlet for their produce, is worthy of Bedlam, and would not be entertained for a moment by any British minister, past or present, save, perhaps, Lord North or his colleagues, if it were not that the Dominion Government seems to have the letter of the law on its side."

Gen. Valentine Baker, in *Blackwood's* for August, estimates England's military strength as follows: Active military service, 151,867; 1st class army reserve, 52,000; 2nd class army reserve, 5,300; militia, 141,438; in India, 71,691. Total, 422,296. After deductions, Gen. Baker arrives at a total of 123,000 men for a field army, including India and the colonial garrisons. The *Broad Arrow* estimates the regular forces as follows: Fit for active service in England, 105,000; army in India, 70,000; in colonies, 25,000; available for drafts, 60,000. Regular forces, 260,000.