

Gleanings.

A propos of the Chitral campaign, M. Labouchère of London "Truth" says: "Every one knows the policy of 'trailing the coat,' which is pursued with such success by British statesmanship on the Indian and other frontiers. It consists in sending over the frontier a small force, large enough to alarm the natives, but not large enough to prevent them attacking it. They attack. A 'British reverse' ensues. Thereupon the national honor requires us to at once advance in force, and avenge the insult by conquering the 'aggressors' and annexing their territory. This policy is not only hard on the British force which serves the purpose of a decoy. Its position is that of the lamb tied to a stake by the huntsman who desires to shoot a tiger or other beast of prey, and doomed to be mangled while the sportsman pots his game from a neighboring tree."—*Army and Navy Journal.*

Our readers will remember the sad circumstances under which some four years ago four midshipmen of the *Warspite* lost their lives off Vancouver's Island by the capsizing of a canoe. To perpetuate the memory of these unfortunate boys a monument in the form of a Celtic cross is to be erected near the little Anglican church at Esquimalt. The church overlooks the bay where the tragic mishap occurred, and the monument will be placed in a position to be visible from the high road from the dock-yard to Victoria. The naval authorities have been requested to help in forwarding the monument to its destination by allowing it to be carried to Esquimalt by the next ship going to the Pacific.

Cordite.

In view of the mooted introduction of smokeless powder in Canada, the following will be of interest:

A curious feature of the review at Portsmouth on the Queen's Birthday, which was witnessed by the son of the Ameer of

Afghanistan, was the use of cordite blank cartridges by the troops who occupied the centre of the line, and owing to its smokeless character thousands of people were led to suppose that some 500 men had not fired through scarcity of ammunition or some such cause. In the recent discussion on army reorganisation much capital was made out of the theory that our army is a parade rather than a fighting force but if the *feu de joie* is to be a smokeless demonstration, half the *eclat* of such functions will be gone, and with it the notion that our army is only a parade force. But there is a far greater objection to cordite. The royal Marine Artillery have been provided with this ammunition for more than six months. The corps was one of the first to be supplied with the magazine rifle for experimental purposes, and the report of the musketry officers was so favourable that the Government lost no time adopting the arm. But so far as the experiments with cordite have gone the explosive has not given complete satisfaction. It is said that after firing seven rounds it is necessary to clean the barrel of the rifle owing to the clogging properties of the new powder, and that if the cleaning process be delayed for more than ten minutes the adhesions are exceedingly difficult to remove. Now, it is obvious that in action it will be impossible for a man to clean his rifle at every seven rounds, while if neglect to do so involves a clogging of the barrel such serious accidents may arise as to raise very grave questions with regard to the wisdom of the authorities in adopting it. Cordite has had many champions in high quarters and quite as many detractors, but the Royal Marine Artillery have discovered a really practical objection, while others have been combatting the new explosive theoretically. Many cases could be cited where pieces of artillery have burst through an imperfect sponging out of the gun, but if cordite has such a sticking propensity as has been discovered at Eastney, the work of sponging out will become more onerous than ever, with a corresponding increase in the risks incurred.—*Naval and Military Record.*

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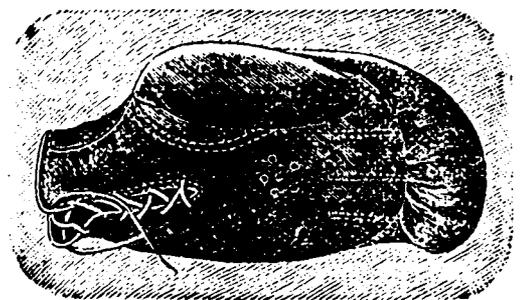
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