

CANADIAN ITEMS.

Work on the Montreal drill shed has been commenced with great activity. The disappearance of the snow has allowed the walls to be uncovered, and men are now busily engaged in building and preparing the roof.

COST OF GUNBOATS.—From a return from the Secretary of State, to Parliament, just printed, we learn that the Fenian Raid cost the Province for gunboat service the nice little sum of \$126,652, 00 besides the payment of \$5 per diem to the Agent for looking after them.

DRUMBO VOLUNTEERS.—We are gratified to be informed that, as a consequence of the very creditable appearance and good turn out of the Drumbo Light Infantry Company, as lately noticed in our columns (there being then fully more men present than the original strength of the Company,) Captain Laidlaw has, since the annual inspection, received arms and accoutrements sufficient to equip his company to the number of fifty-five. This is another proof of the confidence of the Government in our Volunteer defenders, and it is all the more gratifying that this efficiency of the Company has been established since the command devolved upon Captain Laidlaw, a gentleman whose energy, and devotion to the patriotic cause are the best guarantees for the success of any such movement.—*Princeton Transcript*.

A SUPPOSED VALUABLE TROPHY.—A gentleman who was in Albany a few days ago, copied the following from a placard attached to an artilleryman's busbee, on exhibition at a show in connection with the State Agricultural Society at that place:—"This cap was taken from the dead body of a British soldier, (of the regiment called the Queen's Own), at the battle of Fort Erie, between the Fenians and the British in Canada, 1866; was purchased off the Fenian that secured it by Dr. Herick, and by him presented to the State Agricultural Rooms, at Albany, New York." To discover the nonsense of the above would not puzzle a child three years old, but it is conclusive of the fact that if the doctor is not better up in medicine than in war, his patients are greater sufferers than the British were at Fort Erie. Not a single man of the gallant Welland Battery was killed in that engagement, although several of the filibusters bit the dust. The same valiant individual should secure the "flag" the Queen's Own lost at Ridgeway as the most likely means of perpetuating his name to posterity.

The Woodstock Times says of the Band Concert, which recently took place in that town: "Whether it was because of the array of talent secured for the occasion, or the object—the sustenance of the Rifle Band, or whether it was thought the exertions of those who had in charge the disposal of tickets, we know not; but the most perfect success crowned the affair. Perhaps it was from a happy combination of all these, with the further circumstance that the concert was under the patronage of the distinguished officer, whose first service as a Canadian Volunteer was, we believe, in connection with the 22nd Battalion—we refer to Col. Taylor, D. A. A. G., whose intercourse with the people of the County and of the force, has been of the most agreeable character. Certain it is, however, that never before was our Hall filled to such an excess; and from

the applause that followed each contribution, never was a programme presented with anything like the same effect. The graceful and deserved expressions of thanks given by Colonel Richardson at the close of the concert, to the public for the countenance extended under such untoward circumstances, to the ladies for their kindness and efforts, to Mr. Soper for the use of his most exquisite Piano, and to the gentleman who contributed to the success of the occasion, were a proper acknowledgement from the force for late, and prior favors."

MISCELLANEOUS.

Reactionary intrigues were lately very active in Sicily.

Paris is expected to contribute 150,000 men to the National Mobile Guard.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says the ceremony of drumming out is in future to be dispensed with.

It is said that Earl Russell is occupied in preparing a work on his administration of foreign affairs and the foreign office.

The Indian transport *Serapis* arrived at Malta on Feb. 22nd, from Alexandria, with the 42nd Highlanders under command of Col. Priestly. She has left for Portsmouth.

NAVAL COURTS-MARTIAL.—It is stated on authority that the subject of the working of naval courts-martial will, on an early day, be brought before the House of Commons.

The *Daily Telegraph* gives a list of the members of the Royal Commission on the court martial system. It comprises the Marquis of Hartington, General Peel, and other good names.

The *Bankers' Gazette* of St. Petersburg announces that in the great arms factory of Toul a great activity prevails at this moment. The Establishment has already prepared 15,000 needle guns, and hopes are entertained that 100,000 will be furnished before the end of the year.

The army of the United States is to be provided as speedily as possible with breech loading small arms; and we learn from the report of the Secretary of War that as a large number of Springfield rifle muskets remain on hand they are to be converted into breech-loaders. This conversion will, it is thought, produce a weapon superior to the Prussian needle-gun.

The fact has over and over again been established at Shoeburyness, that shot penetrate a target much more easily with a range of 200 yds., than with a range of seventy yards. The reason is not easily given though the fact is experimentally established. It is supposed that the shot "wobbles" a little on leaving the gun, and requires time to settle down to a steady whirl. The fact that the holes made at seventy yards are larger than those made at 200 yards supports this theory.

It is considered abroad, "a fact meriting the greatest consideration" that the sum devoted to the construction of new iron-clad ships for the current year was less than one-twelfth of the vote for the British navy, and was barely sufficient to build three iron-clad frigates. The royal navy now comprises thirty-one iron-clad ships, and eight more are building, four of the existing ships being supplied with turrets, which are also to be placed on two of the new ones.

Major General Randall Rumley will succeed Major General Hamilton, C. B., in the command of the troops in Scotland. General Rumley has on many occasions proved himself of great use to the authorities in conducting inquiries into complicated army questions; and when the inspectorship of infantry was abolished some two or three years since, he was deprived of the enjoyment of the greater portion of his then period of staff service.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

CHINA AND JAPAN.—According to the latest advices received from China and Japan it appears that both of these empires are in a very disturbed condition. In Japan the young Meado has been seized by three of the leading Princes, and is kept a prisoner in their hands; while the mob in Jeddo and the troops of Prince Satsuma have attacked and destroyed some of the finest palaces in the capital, at a considerable sacrifice of life. In China the rebels are said to be slaughtering great numbers of the people, while in the province of Shantung the Imperial forces have carried everything before them, and are reported to have killed about 30,000 of the insurgents. A report is also current that the island of Formosa has been the scene of an earthquake, by which 30,000 lives have been lost. It is very probable however, that the loss of life in both cases has been greatly exaggerated.

The so-called *Amazon* class of the British navy, of which the famous *Danae* is the best known representative, comprises twelve vessels possessing a total measurement of 15,208 tons, and a nominal engine power of 4,200 horses, capable of working up to 25,000 real horse-power. All are unarmoured, are ship-rigged, and carry two 7-inch six and a half-ton muzzle loading rifles, and four 64 pounders converted (Pallsier) guns, and average a speed over the measured mile, with ordinary steam coal of 12.5 knots, full boiler power, and of 10.3 knots half boiler power. Seven of these vessels are in commission, and two others are just completed. The Constructive Department complain that these vessels are not what they should be, and charge all their defects upon the sea lords of the Admiralty Board, who by their continued interference with the Constructive Department so cripple the latter that no design for a ship submitted is ever built and equipped for sea according to the idea of her designers. The *Amazon* class were designed to possess exceptional speed, and all weights, in the form of rigging, boats, crew stores, etc., were cut down as much as possible. A light rig was designed, and ninety hands named as the crew, all told. The Board of Admiralty now send these ships to sea with a full ship's rig, three times the weight of the one designed for them: a heavy boom-boat amidships; an addition of two 64-pounder guns, and a crew of one hundred and eighty men. The Constructive Department, therefore, say that the country is having added to its navy two spoilt unarmoured cruisers for the sum which ought to give three perfect and very much swifter vessels.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The National Rifle Association in anticipation of their general meeting to be held at Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday next, under the presidency of the Duke of Cambridge, has just issued its eighth annual report. It consists of something like 500 closely printed pages. As an example of the progressive success achieved, it is shown that