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THE NEW MANNLICHER RIFLE.

Herr von Mannlicher, of Vienna, has completed a new weapon whose "fire results" are amazing. Some strictly confidential trials of the new rifle were made in August last by the musketry experts of the Austrian army, but no one else was permitted to test or even examine it. The reports of the Austrian experts are satisfactory in every respect, and a correspondent of the *London Times* is in a position to describe in detail the weapon and its capabilities, having been afforded an opportunity to inspect and test it at the branch establishment in Währing of the Steyer Small Arms Manufacturing Company. The length is forty inches. The weight is slightly under that of an ordinary repeating rifle. Its bore is 6.5 millimetres in diameter, the same as that of the latest Mannlicher pattern adapted by the Roumanian and Italian Governments. Compared with the former Mannlicher's eight millimetres, this is, indeed, a considerable reduction of bore, but the inventor favours the smaller size on account of the increased velocity obtained and the reduction in the weight of the cartridges. The weapon is sighted up to 2,700 yards, point blank to 500, with the "culminating point" in the latter trajectory at five feet from the ground. The breech action is enclosed and guided in a cylindrical tube, called the breech receiver, of a similar diameter to the barrel in its outside coverings. The trigger mechanism is so constructed that the shots may be fired in the most rapid succession or at any desired intervals. The mechanism, therefore, is simplicity itself. We descended into a big underground vault and fired bullets, or rather, poured them into sandbags. A touch of the trigger of the automatic repeater and the breech bolt flew back into its closed position. Then followed five piercingly sharp explosions, and the empty clip dropped ringing from the magazine on the floor. The explosions seemed instantaneous. With a stop watch the correspondent timed them and found that they occupied a single second. Barely one and a half seconds to come down from the "present" to the "ready" position to insert another clip, and then five more shots banged forth in the same limit of time. No cartridge jams. The mechanism is too sound and simple for that. In the hands of its inventor the rifle can discharge about 120 rounds per minute. The barrel becomes hot, but not so hot as to render the rifle useless for a time. Should the exceedingly simple mechanism for automatically operating the breech bolt become deranged the rifle can still be used as an ordinary repeater.

It might be a risky experiment to place in the hands of a soldier a rifle that can easily expend in one minute 100 rounds out of the supply of 150 that he carries in his cartridge pouches. On shipboard, however, when, for instance, sailors on an ironclad have to repel a torpedo boat attack, the rifle is expected to prove extremely serviceable. The men could,

with plenty of ammunition lying beside them, pour out bullets like a hailstorm.

A MIDLANDER TO THE FRONT.

The complaint is sometimes made that graduates of Canadian colleges too often fail to make proper use of the education largely given them by the nation. But in the case of Lieut. Geo. Laidlaw, recently elected reeve of Bexley by a handsome majority over a very strong and popular opponent, Mr. E. Lytle, there is an example, the first on record, we believe, where a distinguished graduate of the Royal Military College, having settled down to farming, the grandest of all professions, has been elected to be chief magistrate for his municipality. That Lieut. Laidlaw gave his country meritorious military service in the North West rebellion where while leading his men in the charge through the rifle pits he was severely wounded, is exemplified by his brilliant military record. That he will well and truly serve his county, the one his father loved so well, is unquestioned.—*Victoria Warder.*

TWO BRAVE MEN DEAD.

Particulars have been received in the Bombay Army headquarters, Poona, regarding the death of Lieutenant H. L. Gordon, 2nd Bombay Lancers, in an engagement with the dacoits, Rajkote. The Barwathiahs entrenched themselves in a pit and hoisted their flag. Lieutenant Gordon and his men charged them, he himself leading. The Barwathiahs fired upon them from the pit and wounded Lieutenant Gordon, who nevertheless kept firing. Both sides fired, and Lieutenant Gordon though receiving four or five bullet wounds still led the charge. Then they came to close quarters and Gordon struck with his sword some one of them, his sword being bent. He then received a sword-wound on the neck and dropped dead.

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General Francis Young, of the Indian Staff Corps, died on the 4th inst., at Marlborough House, Southsea. The gallant officer, who had attained the age of seventy-five, served in the suppression of the mutiny in Bengal in 1857-59, and received the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for a successful pursuit of a body of Sepoy rebels in Behar in 1858. On this occasion he, with nine of his men, crossed the Poon Poon river in a flooded state and killed with his own hands, in a hand-to-hand encounter, two of the rebels who had remained behind to dispute the passage of the ford.