

# EVENTS

*Published Weekly.*

13  
Vol. 6, No. 6.

OTTAWA, AUGUST 6, 1904.

Whole No. 281.

## *Something of British Politics.*

THE British secretary for war has announced a possible policy connected with army reform. "There will be an improvement of the militia, and, if public opinion will allow, the amalgamation of the Militia with the Line for the purpose of forming a true territorial army." An English exchange is very indignant over the "if public opinion will allow" and says that it is high time for this enervating weakness for hypothetical programmes to be given its right name and its right place. Speaking of army reform various expedients have been tried to make the Army more attractive. Mr. Broderick's experiment of changing the terms from seven years with the colours and five years with the reserve to three years with the colours and nine years with the reserve, with the offers of inducements at the end of two years to tempt men to re-enlist for a further period of five years, has broken down disastrously. Mr. Broderick thought that his recruits would accept the offer, and in practice only 15 per cent accepted them.

It would appear that there is a pressing need in England for such military experts as Generals Dundonald and Hutton. No European Power, except Austria, has a reserve with so slight a training as the British Militia. Militia battalions were sent to South Africa with officers quite untrained, "got straight from school or from their families." To quote the Commission Lord Roberts "was uneasy" when his communications were in the custody of the Militia. He reported that the training of the officers was defective, and both Lord Wolseley and General Kelly-Kenny were most emphatic on this point. One English writer declares that "if we are to have an adequate Army it is essential to abandon this practice of feeding it from ill-trained men. As an arm of home defence the Militia must be considered on its merits. As a back-door to the Army it is a serious danger."

The traditional glories of the British House of Commons are sadly bedimmed. We gave a few examples a week or two ago, and now it appears that the opposi-