

Baden-Powell's Police.

The official news from South Africa is now so meagre that it is difficult to ascertain the exact condition of affairs. But the despatches received from Lord Roberts during the past fortnight cannot be regarded as very cheering to those who desire to see an early termination to the fighting. There have been slight engagements in nearly every portion of the seat of operations, and the casualties have been quite numerous enough to create anxiety among those who have relatives and friends at the front. In the western part of the Transvaal, Lord Methuen is receiving a lot of attention from the Boers; and General French in a recent running fight lost seven killed and had 27 wounded.

The English newspapers exhibit much impatience and, fretting at the obstinacy of the enemy, are again floundering about in search of reasons why the Boers remaining in the field cannot be killed or captured. The "Financial News" (London) says:

"It is still significant that those columns in which irregular troops bulk largely escape with the lightest loss, and one wearies to see Baden-Powell's picked police at work."

The Record of Events.

The City Imperial Volunteers are a counterpart of the first Canadian force raised for service in South Africa. All sorts and conditions of men presented themselves as candidates for the honour of serving the Queen and Empire, and the result was eminently satisfactory in both cases. From the millions of London was selected a regiment physically and mentally more than capable of holding their own with the flower of the British army; and from the Dominion of Canada, a similar body of young men was chosen.

London has recently received her representatives with the most exuberant manifestation of delight, and Canada has followed suit. But the people of the world's greatest city are not satisfied with a celebration, of which a few racy particulars have travelled westward across the autumn seas, marked by nothing save signs of the nation having imbibed somewhat freely. The admirers of the City Imperial Volunteers want a record of their doings, and already the same is published. It contains a detailed account of the inception, organization, and fighting record of this popular corps. There is also an historical introduction dealing with the Trained Bands of Old London and other Volunteers of bygone times who have been connected with the city. The material for the history of the corps which has just reached England has been supplied by officers and men of the C.I.V. On the 52 pages of beautiful art paper are reproduced some 50 drawings by well-known artists; and the artistic features of the work cannot be overpraised.

Who is going to do similar work here, in order that the record of the gallant men of the First Cana-

dian contingent may be perpetuated? Illustrated lectures by war correspondents are interesting enough in their way, but they are only heard by a limited number. Surely, some one will be found to give us the fighting record of the Royal Canadians, with a graphic and accurate narrative of what happened to them from the time of their departure from Quebec to the day of their arrival at Halifax.

The Risk of Explosions.

The terrific explosion at the recent serious fire in New York are being made the reason for reminding insurance companies of the risks they run from the careless storing and handling of explosives. It does not require an experienced adjuster to discover danger from the way in which oil is exposed for sale in Canadian cities. Kerosene, pure and impure, in old and leaky barrels, on the sidewalks and in the stores is a constant menace to property, but in the absence of fire the danger is overlooked or underestimated. There are certain trades and occupations which are specially liable to damage by fire from explosion. A very small quantity of liquid thrown upon melted copper, produces a violent explosion, and a scattering of the hot metal. Iron foundries, brass foundries, bell foundries, gas and lamp fixture workers, and all who use melted metals, and especially melted copper, or any composition of which copper is a part, are in more or less danger from this cause.

Melted metal poured into moist sand, or into moulds containing water or moisture often produce explosions of a serious nature. Foundries and furnaces, as remarked, are specially liable to this danger. The bursting of a large flask, and the scattering of the liquid fire it contains over an establishment, is a serious affair. Usually it kills, or injures the operatives, or some of them, and frightens the rest to such an extent that before order can be restored, the building is on fire. In iron foundries and blast furnaces, explosions occur from inflammable gases accumulating in the furnaces themselves, or in the flues under the boilers where the gas has been conveyed to be consumed as fuel.

Quite a number of instances are on record where explosions with disastrous consequences have occurred from this cause. Rolling mills as well as foundries and furnaces, are more or less subject to this danger.

These dangers are sudden and unexpected, and they are not of the sort that owners will admit. The foundry-man laughs at the underwriter's suggestion. He has seen so many explosions that all idea of danger from them is scouted; but, after all, his ignoring of the danger does not alter the facts. Underwriters know what they have to pay for; and after the rest of the founder's hazard has been taken into consideration, if the agent will add in his own mind a fraction for explosions before he names the rate, he will do an eminently safe and proper thing.