

the city are only a continuation of the *Grand Saull St. Louis*, now known as the Lachine Rapids—which derived its name originally from a Frenchman, one of an exploring party, who was drowned by the upsetting of a canoe among the islands at the foot of the rapids—the prefix Saint to his name, and St Helen's Island and others, being given by the early pioneers out of reverence to the parties or incidents connected with the events of that period.

In conclusion the Imperial authorities last autumn surrendered this beautiful island, with all its appurtenances, to the Dominion Government, and it is believed, it will still be held as a military post of the Dominion. The value of the property may be fairly estimated at £30,000 sterling or about \$150,000.

THE FISHERIES OF HUDSON'S BAY.

(From the *Cobourg Star*)

It is far from being to our credit that so much indifference should continue to prevail on the subject of the fisheries of the Hudson's Bay. Here, as we have on former occasions pointed out, the Dominion of Canada has in its exclusive possession a Mediterranean Sea having a fishing coast line of more than 2,000 miles, swarming with seals and porpoises, a sure indication of the quantity of fish which the Bay contains, and moreover accessible in 24 hours by a railway, if such were constructed from Toronto. Yet the fact of this sea mine belonging to us seems to be as much ignored as if it had no actual existence. Of the value of this seal fishery alone, the following notice gives a good indication.

The tenth of August, says the *New York Herald*, was a great day of jubilation in the quaint town of New London. Two vessels took their departure for the South Shetland Isles, situated ten days sail off Cape Horn. Last year a fleet of four whaling vessels left New London for these islands, and after an absence of nine months returned, each vessel having gained in that time about sixty thousand dollars worth of seal skins. This year a fleet of about fifteen vessels are going out to these islands from New London, New Bedford, and Stonington each vessel expecting to make a fortune. The seal skins received from the Shetlands are far superior to those received from Alaska, and when dried and dressed sell for from forty to fifty dollars each.

On reading this notice it must strike every one that if American fishermen can make with profit a nine months voyage to catch seals, it would magnificently pay the good citizens of Toronto to engage in a similar business at a cost to them of a travel only of 24 hours. We earnestly trust that this subject of the Hudson's Bay fisheries will be taken up with the energy which it demands. All that is required it appears to us is that the Government should give a right direction to the line of route of the British Pacific Railway, and that that right direction is not the line which Mr. Sandford Fleming has been instructed to survey, we are more and more convinced. The mistake committed, is not too late to be remedied, is in our good judgment, in placing the capital of Manitoba at Fort Garry instead of at the head of Lake Winnipeg. Here we are assured would be found the true starting point from which the fisheries of Hudson's Bay could be made accessible to the enterprise of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia.

In his recently published work General Hazen speaks as follows of the change made in the order of battle by the introduction of long range and accurate guns:

This situation with troops armed with the long range and accurate rifle, and so confident of their power as to exercise it fully, gives an advantage not realized except by those who have observed it. Our own officers who served in the field during the last year of our war will readily understand it. The attacks upon our forces by Hood in front of Atlanta, where we were always ready and confident, are cases in point. The most conspicuous is that of the 25th of July, 1864, when he attacked our right in position. A single brigade, commanded by General Charles R. Woods, received the attack coolly and confidently in their prepared position losing but fifteen men; while Hood lost in killed, buried by us, long trenches of men, and his number of wounded must have been great in proportion.

At Jonesboro' my depleted division numbered but twenty-two hundred muskets, but every one could be counted on. We took up our position just on the 29th of August, 1864, and on the morning of the 30th it became necessary, from the nature of the ground on my left, to occupy a line half a mile long. This made a single rank the whole length, and not one man in reserve. This was positively necessary, on account of commanding heights which could in no other way be controlled. The division of General Hasterhaus lay on my right, but not on ground that he coveted. After feigning a movement against him, the entire corps of S. D. Lee attacked my thin line, and received so severe a repulse that the same night, on receipt of the intelligence, Atlanta was given up.

We were enabled to do this through perfect confidence, resulting from a slight work we had thrown up under fire, giving each man six or eight deliberate shots after the enemy came within range, while his own person was comparatively safe. This inspired each man with such a feeling of security as to afford him collected use of all his facilities; and the result was, that so many of the enemy were struck that they began to give way a hundred yards from my line, and the few—about one hundred—who came over the works were at once made prisoners. I give these two illustrations, in which the attack received at least ten times the damage it inflicted, to show how a very small force may repulse, and even defeat, a very large one. If several of these positions are prepared one behind the other, I can scarcely see any limit to the power of the defence, provide the morale of the troops be perfect.

The new strength of the defence is mostly due to the late improvements in fire arms, by which their range, rapidity and accuracy of fire are greatly augmented. I think it may be safely said that a single line in two ranks, composed of thoroughly good troops, with the new style of breech-loading arms, and protected by some slight work, can defy any sort of attack that can be devised, provided it be made in front, and over ground affording no cover. This comes from the fact that there is a moral limit to the capacity of men to face danger.

This limit may be increased by discipline, but one in three put *hors de combat* is about the highest in a fair fight. At Shiloh my brigade lost thirty six per centum; but it may be safely put down, that when every third or even fourth man is struck, the body of troops of which they are components is neutralized, until it is reorganized and re-

covers its confidence, impaired by the presence of death.—*School and the Army*, pp. 97, 98, and 99.

The breech loading musket had been used in the small affairs of Baden and Schleswig Holstein, but there were many who described it, because of its wastefulness of ammunition—the precise argument so often used in our country by incompetent judges, who fail to recognize that their objection relates to the discipline of the men, and not at all to the qualities of the arm. The rapidity of fire is so great that in receiving an enemy, a command can with perfect safety reserve its fire until they are within five hundred paces. The attacking force should be made to approach over ground where they cannot take advantage of cover. With these conditions well trained troops with the energy and tact to cover their front with a slight epaulment, such as we were accustomed to make during the last year of our war every night before the troops rested, may await the assault of an adversary, no matter in what formation, with as little concern as the approach of a picket line. It is safe to estimate the advantages of the breech over the muzzle loader as three to one. In its use troops must be well controlled, and not permitted the same liberty of firing on their own impulse as with muzzle loaders.

I have taken the liberty of digressing in this matter, as there are still officers of our service who croak about the waste of ammunition with the new arm. Its use secures such decided advantages as should forever close the mouths of all who now oppose it. There are two requisites to its employment, that the officers should control the fire of their men, and themselves have the intelligence to know when to order it. There can hardly be a doubt, however, that more ammunition will be used in every engagement than we have been accustomed to use with the old style of arms. This makes it necessary to consider carefully the subject of supplying the line with cartridges from the ammunition trains a little distance in the rear of the engagement. Our previous want of any system in this matter might unless remedied, result in disaster with the new arm.

The Prussians scarcely used their arms for skirmishing, or random shooting, either in 1866 or in the present war, but reserved their fire for close quarters; and about Paris there was no exchanging of shots on the picket-line; nor was their attack, made by Prince Frederick Charles, on the very slightly entrenched position of the Austrians at Sadova previous to the arrival of the Crown Prince upon the enemy's flank, of any avail. It is scarcely possible to hope for success in attacking an entrenched position in future, defended by firm men armed with the new breech-loaders.—*Ditto*, pp. 163, 164, 165.

A limited number of foreign officers were officially present at the Autumn Manoeuvres of the British Army. Remarking on the subject the *Army and Navy Gazette* says: "It is to be regretted that General Sherman cannot attend the Manoeuvres. The American Army may be proud of a man who is as modest as he is distinguished and capable. He is a deep thinker, reflects on what he sees, and has a fair and impartial mind to which he refers his impressions calmly and deliberately for judgement; and as he is now after an extensive field of foreign travel, going over the mother country, and we are sorry he does not take a look at the brilliant *echantillon* of our Army, as we trust he would think it. It is stated that General Pennypacker will come to the Manoeuvres as representative of the United States.