

only one man, Lieutenant W. G. Cameron, bore the clan name.

Along with every other patriotic Highlander we regret that in recent years London and other city slums should have been so largely drawn upon for "Highland" recruits. But really what else can be expected when the miserable manner in which the British soldier is paid is considered. The present rate of 1s. per day was fixed about two centuries ago, when agricultural and other laborers only 8d. to 9d. per day. The latter now receive from 18s. to £1 a week, while the soldier's pay has been practically unchanged for 200 years. When the soldier, who has in many respects to sacrifice his liberty, is paid at the same rate as an ordinary labourer, there will be no need to go to the back slums of Whitechapel, or of any other English or Scottish town, to get as many good native recruits for our Highland regiments as may be required, especially if they are again officered, as of yore, by their own natural leaders.—*Scottish Highlander*.

THE MANNLICHER RIFLE IN ACTION.

Herr Prinz, a German naval surgeon, who served on shore with the Anglo-German Ambulance during the recent civil war in Chili, thus sums up his official report of the behaviour and effect in action of the 8-millimetre Mannlicher magazine rifle, the weapon which, partially adopted by the Congressional troops, is also the service rifle of the German army. "Officers, surgeons, and others," he says, "all speak very highly of the great penetration and precision of the weapon, of its low trajectory up to 500 or 600 yards, of its simplicity in use, and of its strength and excellence of construction. Not more than seven or eight per cent. of the rifles suffered damage. The wounds were, as a rule, small, even, clean, and unaccompanied by circumstantial contusion, or by considerable laceration, even at the point of exit. The bullets were seldom deformed, and when they were deformed the deformation seemed to be the result, not of striking the body, but of first striking some harder substance. The moral effect of the superiority of the new bullet was striking. The Balmacedist soldiers, who certainly did not deserve to be called cowards, over and over again declared that the mere astonishment caused them by the terrible projectiles left them unable to use their own weapons. The terror created by the new weapon at the action of Concon had certainly its effect in so speedily terminating the battle of Placilla." A report by Surgeon E. R. Stitt, of the United States navy, is much to the same effect.

FRANCE'S WAR BUDGET.

The official report on the war budget for 1893 has just been published. The figures are bewildering. Since 1871 the military expenses, without counting the navy, amount to 18,000,000,000 francs. Subtracting from this sum the pensions and strategic railway expenses there remains for strictly military expenditures 15,368,000,000 francs. Of this sum 2,891,000,000 francs have been expended in the reconstruction of war material, and 11,774,000,000 francs for the support and preparation of the armies. Here are some of the figures in detail :

	Francs.
Armament	1,565,149,660
Fortifications	781,560,536
Subsistence	81,388,730
Clothing	242,594,022
Sanitary service	22,991,583
Remounting	27,847,594
Railroads	35,671,605

The largest item in the bill was the cost of the French infantry rifle. The Chassepot was discarded in 1874 for the Gras rifle, and the whole army, with the reserves, were furnished with this weapon when in 1886 the Lebel rifle appeared. In five years this new rifle was supplied to all the infantry and cavalry. Its extraordinary accuracy and power have already been described.

THE LATEST WINNER OF THE VICTORIA CROSS.

Lance-Corporal William James Gordon has the place of honour in a recent *London Gazette*. The Queen intends to confer upon him the decoration of the Victoria Cross, for

the conspicuous bravery displayed during the attack on the stockaded town of Toniataba, Gambia River, on the 13th March last year. During this attack "Major G. C. Madden, West India Regiment, who was in command of the troops, was superintending a party of twelve men, who were endeavoring, with a heavy beam, to break down the south gate of the town, when suddenly a number of musket muzzles were projected through a double row of loopholes which had been masked. Some of these were within two or three yards of that officer's back, and before he realized what had happened, Lance-Corp. Gordon threw himself between Major Madden and the muskets, pushing that officer out of the way, and exclaiming, "Look out, sir!" At the same moment Lance-Corp. Gordon was shot through the lungs. By his bravery and self-devotion on this occasion the lance-corporal probably saved the life of his commanding officer." So runs the official account of the act of courage for which Lance-Corp. Gordon is to get his Victoria Cross.

NAPOLEON'S PLANS FOR THE INVASION OF ENGLAND.

Napoleon frequently spoke of the invasion of England; that he never intended to attempt it without a superiority of fleet to protect the flotilla. This superiority would have been attained for a few days by leading ours out to the West Indies, and suddenly returning. If the French fleet arrived in the Channel three or four days before ours, it would be sufficient. The flotilla would immediately push out, accompanied by the fleet, and the landing might take place on any part of the coast, as he would march direct to London. He preferred the coast of Kent, but that must have depended on wind and weather; he would have placed himself at the disposal of naval officers and pilots, to land the troops wherever they thought they could do so with the greatest security and in the least time. He had 1,000,000 men, and each of the flotilla had boats to land them; artillery and cavalry would soon have followed, and the whole could have reached London in three days. He armed the flotilla merely to lead us to suppose that he intended it to fight its way across the Channel; it was only to deceive us. It was observed that we expected to be treated with great severity in case of his succeeding, and he was asked what he would have done had he arrived in London. He said it was a difficult question to answer; for a people with spirit and energy, like the English, was not to be subdued even by taking the capital. He would certainly have separated Ireland from Great Britain, and the occupying of the capital would have been a death-blow to our funds, credit, and commerce. He asked me to say frankly whether we were not alarmed at his preparation for invading England. From "*Napoleon's Deportation to Elba*," in the *Century for March*.

THE STATUS OF VOLUNTEERS.

A case of great importance, not only to the volunteer force of Great Britain, but to that of the whole Empire, came before Mr. Justice Lawrance and Mr. Justice Collins, in the Court of Queen's Bench, London, (Eng.), the other day. The plaintiff was Colonel Pearson (commanding the 2nd Middlesex Artillery Volunteers); the defendants the Holborn Union Assessment Committee. The questions raised concerned the rateability of certain city premises used as a storehouse, drill-hall, &c., by the 2nd Middlesex Artillery Volunteers. Certain rooms are set apart, it seems, for officers, men's canteen, &c., and the appellant contended that the whole premises were exempt from rateability, as being in the occupation of the Crown for the purposes of the Crown. The court was asked to decide whether the whole of the premises were exempt from the rates, or whether the portions necessary and proper for storehouses were alone exempt. Mr. Justice Lawrance, in delivering judgment, said the whole question depended upon the real position occupied by volunteers. Were they the servants of the Crown, or a number of persons banded together for a particular purpose? He was of opinion that the premises were used in precisely the same way and for the same purpose as if they were Crown premises, and were occupied by servants of the Crown. To quote the judge's words: "Under section 2 of the Volunteer Act, 1863, Her Majesty is empowered to accept their services.