

LONG before that happens we may be called upon to do something for the defence of the Empire, if the *Broad Arrow* is to be believed. In a late issue it remarks editorially: "Whilst Englishmen at home are busied solely regarding the formation of a new ministry, and speculating as to what particular individual will be called to office—whether round men will be put into square holes and square men into round ones—Englishmen in the east are anxiously watching gathering clouds in the political sky which seem to threaten tempest. We have no wish to play the part of alarmists or to get up a Russian 'scare' of our own, but we are justified in saying that there is some cause for anxiety, if none for alarm. From sources the trustworthiness of which we cannot doubt, we are assured that the feeling at this moment amongst the several diplomatic representatives at Constantinople is that hostilities are on the eve of breaking out, and that the outburst cannot be delayed much longer than the next spring. There is unrest in India owing to a similar apprehension. It is felt that Russia is waiting to spring upon her ancient foe, and although her first move may not be towards the minarets of Stamboul but towards the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus and Armenia, yet Constantinople is the end she will fight to the death for. Russia is laying in naval stores as fast as she can at all the Black Sea ports, and that fleet is being strengthened with all rapidity. The Sultan is not blind to these omens, but his exchequer is empty, so he leaves the matter to *Kismet*, although he will fight hard and die game. But what of the menace to England? The first train of the Russian Trans-Caspian railway entered Merv only a fortnight ago; the Turcomans have been gained over; the Ameer of Cabul is troubled as to whether Russia or England is the stronger, and it has now been discovered that a Russian army can march on Rawul Pindi, in spite of all the precautions understood by scientific or strategic frontiers. Whether it be Russia's intention to invade India or not, she certainly will keep that fear ever before the eyes of England, for she knows that this will oblige us to keep the greater part of our army there in defensive attitude. In the meantime we are exchanging compliments with the Russian officers of the Afghan boundary commission, and congratulating ourselves that 'the frontier now has been demarcated by pillars.' There must be laughter at St. Petersburg at this assurance of safety for England. Russia has moved within the last few weeks, until Europe is now face to face with a problem, which cannot find its solution in a concentration of Russian and Turkish troops at different strategic frontiers, but may well occupy the attention of Lord Salisbury's government. Unless checked, stirring events in the East are undoubtedly impending." Now that the Canadian Pacific Railway is completed and available as a transport route to the East, all this affects Canada quite as closely as it does Great Britain, and forces us to ask what part we would be called upon to bear in case of a Russian war, as well as suggests one possible benefit of an Imperial federation, for federated or not we should probably have to provide troops for the defence of our own western coast, and once more send eastern militiamen over our transcontinental railway. All these considerations make Col. O'Brien's visit to British Columbia specially interesting to us at this juncture.

### The Shoeburyness Meeting.

WE are disposed to think that the prize meeting (the twenty-second) of the National artillery association which has just been concluded at the school of gunnery, has been the most successful of the twenty-two which have been held. The weather has been on the whole very good; the numbers attending quite satisfactory. There have been few or no "protests" of any importance, and what is of most importance of all, the discipline of the camp in both the first and second weeks is understood to have been so good as to entirely satisfy the camp commandant and the head of the school of gunnery. No formal report has yet been issued, but the words of the adjutant-

general at the prize distribution on Thursday were enough to show that the discipline and behaviour of the volunteers have been creditable to the force to which they belong. The meeting has been marked by two incidents of special interest—the presence throughout the two weeks of Colonel Armstrong's splendid Canadian team, and the attendance of Lord Wolseley at the prize distribution. The appearance of the Canadians ought to put our men on their mettle. We are quite aware that the former are picked men—and are picked, moreover, in a way in which it would never be possible for us to pick a team to go to Canada or any other colony. But even allowing for this, we must say that we have seldom seen such a body of soldiers as the Canadian artillerymen who have just left Shoeburyness. Nobody, we think, who saw those clean-limbed giants performing the "shift" for the Governor-General's cup on Thursday will ever forget the sight. Their march past later in the day, in full panoply, was equally good in a different way. And they, or a great many of them, show by their medals that they can do, and have actually done, more trying and important work than parbuckling a 64-pounder up to its carriage, or marching past the adjutant-general. They will return home, indeed, laden with the spoils of their recent peaceful campaign. Our men have prevented them, not without serious difficulty, from carrying off the Queen's prize, but by their prowess with the Armstrong they have recovered the Montreal cup, which Colonel Ray and his men brought back from Canada two years ago; they have taken away the Londonderry cup from the best team we could bring against them, and they have refused even to let the prize given by their own Governor-General for excellence in repository work remain among us. Moreover, they have won a first prize for shell firing and a certificate in the ordinary repository competition, so that there will be rejoicing, fully justified, in Canada.

The other point of special interest in the meeting was the attendance of Lord Wolseley. The National artillery association had a very uphill game to play during many years of its existence. By the exertions of the successive presidents of its council and of its indefatigable secretary, and though last, not least, by the cordial co-operation of the authorities of the school of gunnery, the position of the National artillery association may now be considered to be perfectly secure. Of course its work is done very quietly and modestly, and it by no means receives that support from the public which so important a body might fairly expect. Until, indeed, the public do give it rather more substantial support, it is in vain to hope that there can be any great increase in the value of the prizes given at Shoeburyness. As it is, they amount to about three times the sum received in entrance fees. But indeed this is of rather little importance. The volunteers come to Shoeburyness more for the honor of winning than for any hope of pecuniary advantage, and they learn, undoubtedly during their stay a great deal that they could never learn at home, or indeed, anywhere else, except in that paradise of artillerymen, the school of gunnery. But it is of the greatest importance if the National artillery association is to continue its useful course, that it should be well looked upon by the highest military authorities. And that it is so looked upon at present, we may take for granted from the fact of Lord Wolseley's attendance at the prize distribution, and from the remarks he made on that occasion.

Lord Wolseley's brief speech will be read with great interest by all volunteers, especially those of the artillery; but his remarks on one topic on which he touched, will gratify a great many people as much as they gratify us. We allude of course to his reference to the practicability and necessity of organizing auxiliary "field" artillery. For years it has been considered that whatever auxiliary troops could do, they must leave field batteries, at least technically so called, to the regular artillery. It has, indeed, been conceded, though doubtfully, that volunteers might be trusted with the heavier class of movable ordnance known as "guns of position." But now we have the adjutant-general of the forces publicly stating his belief that auxiliary field artillery is absolutely necessary, and that he hoped within a very few years to see many batteries of it established among the militia and volunteers, thereby expressing, with the whole weight of his official and personal authority, his adhesion to the doctrines which have been for years preached by Col. Shakspear, Lord Wemyss, Lord Truro, and other humbler persons, but which have been hitherto scouted altogether by the greater number of officers of the Royal artillery. We are quite aware of the difficulties connected with the organization of volunteer field batteries, difficulties which we shall discuss on a future occasion; but it is no slight thing that even the principle that they are required should have been approved by such an authority as Lord Wolseley, and in the very focus as it were of artillery, the school of gunnery at Shoeburyness.—*Volunteer Service Gazette, August 14.*

The 90th Batt. will shortly lose the services of the assistant surgeon, Dr. Whiteford, who is leaving for British Columbia. It is not yet known who will be appointed in his place.