

fits the one will fit the other. It is, however, lighter and more handy, and it is free from the mechanical complications inseparable from magazine rifles, which render them unsuitable for imperfectly trained troops. Second, it has the Martini breech action, with which you are well acquainted. Third, the Martini-Henry rifles can be converted to the Martini-Metford system at small cost. This is not only an advantage to the Government, but also to those rifle men (and I am happy to say there are a good number) who possess Martini-Henry rifles of their own. I see no difficulty in the Government undertaking the conversion of such rifles free of charge to the owners. (Hear, hear.) Further, when I tell you that the rifle has no recoil, and fires point blank up to 500 yards. I think you will appreciate the difficulty that I see in store for the Dominion Rifle Association from the number of "possibles" that will be made at the short ranges, and the consequent necessity that will arise for ranges on which practice can be carried out at the distances which a prudent enemy would wish to preserve between himself and our formidable marksmen. (Hear, hear.) I must not take up more of your time, but will conclude by wishing prosperity to the Military Rifle League. (Loud cheers.)

The 13th men, as they came up for the prizes, were loudly cheered. The B.C. representative also received a hearty welcome.

Adjutant-General Powell presented the badges, after which the election of officers was proceeded with. The president said he believed in changes of Government once in a while (laughter)—and on this understanding, arrived at last year, he desired to be relieved from the presidency. The election resulted as follows:

President—Lt.-Col. Anderson, Ottawa.

First vice-president—Major Mason, Hamilton.

Second vice-president—Major E. B. Busteed, 3rd Vics., Montreal.

Treasurer—Major W. E. Hodgins, Ottawa.

Executive Committee, Ontario—Major S. Hughes, Lindsay; Capt. W. S. Russell, Berlin; Lieut. W. R. Pringle, Toronto; Major W. C. Macdonald, Major J. Bruce, Toronto.

Quebec—Lt.-Col. Hood, Lt.-Col. Massey, Major Sims, Montreal; Capt. Melbourne, Lt. Davidson, Quebec.

Prince Edward Island—Capt. Longworth, Capt. Hooper, Cap. Weiss, Charlottetown.

Nova Scotia—Major Garrison, Major Bishop, Major Weston, Halifax.

New Brunswick—Major T. G. Loggie, Lt.-Col. Munseff, Col. E. B. Beer, Lt. Chipman, Fredericton.

Manitoba—Lt. Col. Boswell, Winnipeg, Lt. R. C. Brown, Portage la Prairie; Mr. H. A. Costigan.

North-west Territories—Mr. James Riley, Calgary; Mr. Hannaford, Prince Albert.

British Columbia—Lt.-Col. E. G. Prior, Gunner J. D. Taylor, Victoria; Capt. Jernley, New Westminster.

Life membership in the league was accorded Lieut.-Col. Gibson. After some further discussion and formal resolutions and thanks, etc., the meeting adjourned.

NEWS OF THE PARENT SERVICES

The Duke of Cambridge has issued a special order to the Army which directs that in future all packages of blank ammunition are to be broken up and examined before being issued to the troops. This order has been given in consequence of ball cartridge having recently been found amongst the ammunition issued for a field day at Aldershot.

The Ferret and Lynx, two of the twenty torpedo-boat destroyers which are to have guaranteed speed of 27 knots, are to be ready for trials at Devonport during the early part of next year. Both these vessels are being built by Messrs. Laird Brothers, of Birkenhead. The Ferret is to be out of the contractors' hands by February 20 and Lynx by April 6 next. No 97 torpedo-boat, which is one of ten now in course of construction, will be ready for transfer from the contractors to Devonport by the end of December.

General Sir C. G. Arbutnot, K.C.B., R.A., will succeed General Sir E. B. Hamley as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Artillery. General Arbutnot served with distinction in the Crimean, Indian mutiny, and Burmese campaigns.

Lieutenant-General Sir Evelyn Wood will take up the duties of the Quarter-master-Generalship, and General H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught the command of the Aldershot Division on October 9.

The Army and Navy Gazette says:—

General Hamley was scarcely "a success" in life, for his arrived abilities his great knowledge, and energetic character entitled him to a more commanding position than he achieved in his profession, in politics, and in literature. He wrote admirably, he knew much, he was a poet in a way, a fine artist, and had an admirable critical faculty—witness his *Life of Voltaire*—he evinced a sense of humor in his writings which he did not show in conversation. He was, as the writer of a very sympathetic notice in the Times says, fond of shooting and devoted to fishing, but he was a very poor and rather dangerous shot, and the Duke of Wellington, whose friendship with the general was not lasting, always told his guests at the coverts of Strathfieldsaye "you must look out for Hamley." As a Waltonian he did better, but in the profession he loved and adorned he achieved no great distinction though he wrote about it with masterly power. Sir Edward Hamley was the subject of a breach of regulations which, as far as we know, did no benefit to the State; he was retained on the list after his time in the hope that his advice might be turned to account in case of war. His service in

command of troops on the field as a general was limited to the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, of which he wrote a "criticism." His friends were not numerous, but those who knew him best liked him most.

The plans of the three battleships now under construction have been modified as regards armour, in view of the information gained by the loss of the Victoria, the general effect of the change being to strengthen the ends. At the waterline there will be a belt of steel 18 inches thick, and supported by wood and iron plates of some 1½ inches. Above this will be a 5½ inch casement of armour, and at each end a diagonal bulkhead. This last will also afford additional protection to the machinery of the heavy guns.

The Admiralty having decided that the Mediterranean Squadron is to be composed of high freeboard ships, it has been determined to send the *Ramilles* thither, as well as the *Anson*, the *Inflexible* and *Colossus* coming home, the former to be guard-ship at Portsmouth, in place of the *Nelson*, which will pay off into the Fleet Reserve, and the latter at Hull, superseding the *Audacious*. The *Resolution* is to join the Channel Squadron instead of the *Rodney* which will also go to the Mediterranean, in place of the *Edinburgh*.

Lieut.-Colonel F.V.G. Bird, of the Plymouth Division, Royal Marines, has been appointed Assistant Adjutant of the Royal Marine Forces, vice Colonel Commandant Ogle, appointed to command the Royal Marine Artillery Division at Eastney.

A North of Ireland contemporary says that a provisional committee has been appointed to promote the establishment in Ireland of a Volunteer corps. Several noble lords and members of the Irish Eight have promised their support to the formation of a Volunteer Association, non-political and non-sectarian.

Captain A.C. Clarke, who has just commissioned the *Magicienne* for further service on the North America and West Indies station, was in command of the *Espiegle* during the Chilean war and brought to Great Britain Balma-ceda's treasure, which was placed on board at the request of the British Consul. There was much discussion at the time with regard to Captain Clarke's action, but he was fully defended by the First Lord of the Admiralty and the matter then dropped. Captain Clarke is a smart and popular officer, and there is no doubt but that he will make his present command as efficient as it was under its late captain.

Lord Gifford, Flag Lieutenant of the