

### Our Exchanges.

THE *Rifle* for June is as usual full of interesting items for rifle shots, including many good scores made under American conditions. An illustrated article on the modern American pistol and revolver is begun, which will be useful. The usual English letter speaks of the Wimbledon meeting and of the place of the volunteers in the army system.

The *Army and Navy Journal* of the 4th June is at hand, and as full of interesting information as ever.

The English monthlies for June have come to hand and we give the following synopsis of their contents as being of interest to our readers.

The principal articles in the *Broad Arrow* of the 28th May are on the ordnance scandals, the diplomatic duel between Russia and Germany, field telegraphy, and the colonial forces of France.

The *Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine* is as interesting as usual; the first article is on Continental Soldiers of 1813, with cuts of the uniforms of different nations at that period. A most interesting account of the Corps of Commissionaires, by Staff-Surgeon J. C. Dickinson, gives full particulars of how they originated the wonderful organized system by which the corps is maintained, and the result of nearly twenty years' experience. Admiral Winnington-Ingram contributes a pleasant account of the operations up the Baltic in our war with Russia (1854); also the experiences in a cyclone 90 miles north of Bermudas, under the heading of Journals of H.M.S. "Boscawen" (72 guns). Major White gives a short Canadian reminiscence in the shape of a sleigh drive to Niagara, accompanied by cuts representing the usual snowshoe and tobogganing costumes of this country. An account of a range-finder for dispersed batteries, by Lieut. Birch, R.A., the originator, is of interest to the scientific branches of the service. Europe in Arms is continued, this time being devoted to the Russian army, accompanied by cuts representing the different uniforms worn by that army. Capt. Gall continues his article on "Modern Tactics," this number being Outposts. "Orient and Occident," or notes of a journey from Lahore to Liverpool, via China, Japan and America, is continued.

*Colburn's United Services Magazine*.—Col. Knollys is again to the front with our "Hearths and Homes," a criticism on Mr. Stanhope's policy, Admiral Vincent continues his article, Torpedoes, Naval Gunnery and National Defence. Anniversaries of British Victories, by Capt. O'Callaghan, is as usual exceedingly interesting; the battle of Bunker Hill, in 1775 (with plate), and the capture of Devi-Cotah in Taurjore, in 1749, comprise this article. The account of the entertainment of the King at Portsmouth, in June, 1773, is continued from the last number, and finished.

### In Parliament.

BEFORE the Committee of Supply rose on the second it passed the items granting pensions to Mrs. Delaney \$400, Fenian raid pensions \$3,701; 1812 pensions \$6,630, and compensation to pensioners in lieu of land \$2,400.

In the Commons on the 3rd a petition was read and received from Thomas G. D. Boles, retired officer, and others, of Chatham, Ont., asking permission to form a battalion of volunteers in the town of Chatham, to be supplied with uniform and equipment and to be put on the same footing as other volunteer corps, in respect of military discipline.

The militia estimates were then taken up, and provoked a prolonged and lively discussion.

In committee of supply on the item "Pensions payable on account of rebellion of 1885 to militiamen \$20,000, to mounted police, volunteers and police scouts \$10,000," Sir Richard Cartwright wanted to know on what principle the pensions were awarded, and instanced the case of Lieut. Swinford, whose father received \$730 per annum, while the mother of Capt. Brown, of Boulton's scouts, received only \$250.

Sir Adolphe explained that rules had been laid down, which were published in general orders, and that all the circumstances of the case had to be considered. He did not know the particular circumstances in these cases, but would enquire.

Sir Richard complained that the Minister had promised the same last year, and he asked to have a memo. laid on the table when next the House went into committee; he then enquired why so large a pension as \$1,000 has been awarded to Capt. Peters, 7th.

The Minister replied that Peters' case was one of the most serious brought before the department; he had been ill for months at great expense in New York and had lost his arm.

Mr. Jones desired to know what conclusion had been reached in the case of Capt. Fortune, of the Halifax battalion, who had been suffering severely of late in consequence of illness contracted in the North-West.

Sir Adolphe replied that his case had been investigated, but had lately come up for reconsideration. He was guided in such cases entirely by the medical commission.

Mr. Mulock enquired why Mrs. Delaney received a pension and Mrs. Gowanlock none, for answer to which Sir Adolphe referred him to the Minister of Indian Affairs. Mr. Barron said a good deal of feeling existed because they had been treated differently; both husbands had been killed trying to suppress the insurrection, and the fact that Delaney was a government employee did not make Mrs. Gowanlock's case any less deserving. Sir Charles Tupper promised to get particulars.

Referring to the item for police scout pensions Mr. Innes referred to the case of young Middleton, of Prince Albert, who volunteered on the mounted police and was killed in the first engagement, but nothing was done towards compensating his family because the money voted last year was for militia service only. Sir Adolphe said the militia department could not deal with the case, but it could now be included under the \$10,000 vote. The item then passed.

When the item of \$17,500 for salaries of military branch and district staff came up Sir Richard Cartwright asked the policy of the Government with reference to the several D.A.G.'s. whose terms of office expired last April.

The minister replied that the policy of the Department had been to limit the expenses of the staff as much as possible so as to spare more for the rank and file. By degrees it was becoming possible to transfer the duties of D.A.G.'s. to the permanent heads of permanent corps, thus saving salaries without losing efficiency. By the age clause it became possible to retire staff officers gradually. Sir Richard wished to know if it was decided to retain all the D.A.G.'s. till they reached the age limit of 63. Sir Adolphe said there would be no retirements during the ensuing year at least.

Col. Denison, alluding to some points in Sir Adolphe's remarks, brought up that part of the major-general's annual report in which he recommends that the officers of the permanent corps should be senior of their rank, and objected to the idea. Their relations to the militia officers were entirely different from those which existed between British regular and militia officers, for in entering a campaign they would have no more experience than the militia officers, if as much. He thought an intimate knowledge of barrack life and duties was no help to an officer in action, and that the great sacrifices made by the militia officers more than offset the extra training of those who made their living out of the country. He also differed entirely from the general's recommendation that the permanent force should be increased and the rural decreased, on the ground that even 3,000 well trained men would be of no use in case of war, while a militia force of 100,000 men, organized with good officers, clothing and arms, would be a formidable army. The militia should at once be increased to 50,000 men, drilled for 16 days every year, and it was not in the interest of a young country to have a large standing army. Not enough money was spent on the militia, and the present unsatisfactory makeshift was a consequence of false economy. The men should be drilled every year, and an increase of 25 per cent. would double the number.

Col. O'Brien would protest against the permanent corps ever becoming more than schools of instructions, and with regard to the militia staff thought the five years' limit of residence injudicious, as it took men in large districts that time to know their officers. The staff officers should be on the same footing regarding superannuation as the civil servants. In the case of the late B.M. of military district No. 2, he was lately retired with very inadequate provision after leaving the regular army for what he considered a permanent appointment.

Sir Adolphe endorsed the opinions of these two speakers, but considered the general's ideas had been misinterpreted, and that he had no intention of interfering with the present construction of the militia. The staff regulations had been unaltered for years, and in the case mentioned by Col. O'Brien all had been done that the law allowed.

Mr. Jones thought Col. Milsom's case a hard one, especially as he left the army before confederation, when in Nova Scotia the appointment of B.M. was looked upon as permanent, and he asked if the Government could not reconsider the case. He also asked if the General's surmise, that we were under some obligation to the Imperial Government as to keeping up a certain force, was correct.

Sir John Macdonald said there was an understanding when confederation was being arranged that the Dominion would properly maintain the Canadian fortifications, and that at least a million a year should be spent on the defensive force, which had always been adhered to.

Sir Richard Cartwright thought the Mounted Police might be reckoned in at arriving at an estimate. The Premier agreed with him, but with out that the agreement had been kept. The mounted police, a really military force of 1,000 men, was one of the finest corps in the world, and could go anywhere.

Mr. Madill advocated the claims of rural battalions to attention, and that drill every year would greatly increase their efficiency.

The item for B.M.'s salaries and expenses, \$12,700, passed without a word, but on that for ammunition, clothing and small arms \$205,000.