

ers. It is understood that some provision for this work will be made in the new estimates, on the recommendation of the Portsmouth Defence Committee, and there can be no doubt that it is most desirable a number of ships should be able to lie together in the stream, for they would be safer there from torpedo-boat attack than at Spithead in foggy weather. It is a pity that the reports of these local defence committees are not laid before Parliament, for it is manifest that to provide ships in sufficient numbers is only one part of the defensive needs of the Empire.

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The Duke of Westminster is assisting the citizens of Chester in their effort to get the city reinstated in its military importance by having two or three regiments permanently stationed there to support Major-General J. Hall and the Staff of the North-Western District. Chester Castle lacks sufficient barrack accommodation, and the Duke of Westminster has offered the War Office a suitable site near the city extending to 120 acres, for erecting barracks for regiments of all arms, Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry.

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The Army and Navy Gazette says:—After having been told at various times that the Ajax, the Temeraire, and the Neptune were to be sent to Esquimalt as port guard ship, we are inclined to accept with caution the story that the Hercules is now assigned for this work. We understand, however, that it is in contemplation to transfer the post of commodore from Jamaica to Vancouver Island; and therefore a seagoing battleship of not too ancient type should be sent to fly the broad pennant would not be beyond what is necessary. We have for years impressed upon the authorities the needs of the Pacific station, and we hope to see good fighting vessels both at Hong Kong and Esquimalt. There should also be a Fleet Reserve and Dockyard Reserve at these places, the former being mobilised once a year at least.

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The United Service Gazette says:—The Agincourt, it is said, is to go to China to take the place at Hong Kong of the Victor Emmanuel, whilst the Hercules will probably be sent to Esquimalt as guardship, and will fly the broad pennant of a second class commodore. This latter decision has been made in consequence of the growing importance of Esquimalt, and of the use now made of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

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According to a painstaking German statistician the number of troops which took part in the present year's autumn manoeuvres on the Continent amounted to no less than 1,200,000 men. This very respectable peace total is considerably superior to that attained by the different Continental armies which

were in the field during the more sanguinary period of the Napoleonic wars. During these manoeuvres a trifle of 60,000,000 cartridges were expended, and the cost of the mimic warfare amounted to six million pounds.

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THE CANNON OF ANDORRA.

The ambition of small Republics, more particularly in matters relating to armaments, is apt to be somewhat out of proportion to the real importance of the State and to its actual requirements. A correspondent, writing recently to the Globe, tells a story of which it may well be said, *se non e vero, e ben trovato*. A short time ago, he would have us believe, the authorities of Andorra, the little Republic in the Pyrenees, conceived the idea that there was something lacking in the dignity of their State, and that something was cannon. Cannon they determined they must have, and, accordingly, inquiries were instituted, and they found that Krupp, of Essen, was a good man for such articles. But when Krupp, of Essen, sent them his price-list, they found that cannon were more expensive things than they had imagined, and that the sum that was destined to procure three or four guns would only buy one. This was disappointing; but, after consideration, they decided that one cannon was, after all, perhaps enough to give an air of importance to their little valley, and, anyhow, was certainly better than none. So one they determined to have, and Krupp was entrusted with the order. At last the cannon arrived in Andorra, and was duly put into position on the highest point of ground in the Republic, where all comers might see how well the valley was protected. Evidently, the next thing to do was to try how it acted. So they carefully studied the directions that came with it, and loaded it accordingly. Then, it suddenly struck one peculiarly bright spirit that before they fired they ought to know where they were going to fire to. The ball carried, he represented, about three times the distance of the whole length of Andorra. If they aimed to the north they would fire right into France; if they fired to the south into Spain. A European war might be the result in either case. Here someone suggested that the cannon should be pointed upwards and fired into the air. But it fortunately occurred to another intelligent native that the ball would be sure to fall to the ground again, and whether it fell in Andorra, in Spain, or in France, the damage it would do would probably be immense. So that would not do either. And then, though everyone began to talk at once, and everyone had a different opinion to advance, the authorities at last were convinced that there was no safe way of firing, and, nearly crying with disappointment, the whole Republic gave in and returned to the valley. The cannon has not been fired yet.—United Service Gazette.

THE LATE LT.-COL. MACDONALD.

Lt.-Col. Donald William MacDonell, who was Sergeant at Arms of the House of Commons from Confederation until his retirement from that office two sessions ago, died December 14th in his sixty-ninth year, at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. J. J. Colville 359 Cooper street, Ottawa.

His death removes one of the oldest and best known figures from the floor of the Parliament of Canada. He was first appointed Sergeant at Arms to the Legislative Assembly of the old Province of Canada in June 1854. He held that office until Confederation, and in November, 1867, was appointed Sergeant at Arms to the House of Commons of the Dominion. In his long tenure of office,—for he was Sergeant at Arms in all thirty-seven years,—he had the acquaintance and friendship of all the men who during all that time in public life and played a part in directing the Dominion's affairs in Parliament. To most of them he administered the oath of allegiance and the oath of office, as each new Parliament entered upon its course. Throughout his whole life he was known as an honourable man, who had the esteem and liking of all who knew him. The news of his death will be heard with sincere sorrow in all parts of the Dominion.

Lt.-Col. Macdonell,—who after commanding the Fourth Stormont Militia for many years retired in 1864, retaining rank—was born in Cornwall in 1824. He was a man of powerful frame, and during his youth and manhood his strength and prowess were famous in Glengarry. Of late years, however, his health had been greatly broken, but the news of his death, though not altogether unexpected, comes as a shock to his family and his many friends.

BIOGRAPHIES.

MAJOR HODGINS.

Major Wm. Egerton Hodgins, of the Canadian Military Rifle League, whose portrait we publish in this issue, was born in Toronto in 1851. Entering the Military School, under special permission of the Militia Department in 1866, he obtained a second class certificate and was the same year appointed an ensign in the militia. He joined the Queen's Own Rifles as a private, and in 1877 was appointed to a lieutenancy, and assisted in organizing the law students' company in that corps. In this capacity he was present at the Montreal Reviews of 1878 and 1879. In 1881 Lt. Hodgins was promoted as Capt. and given command of "I" Company, Q. O. R., which he held until 1884. When removing to Ottawa he was transferred to the Governor-General's Foot Guards as adjutant, with the rank of captain. He holds a 1st class V. B. certificate in addition to his 2nd class R. S. I. In 1882-83 Capt. Hodgins served as orderly officer and also as brigade major at the brigade camps of No. 3 district. During the term of office of the Marquis