

WAR MATERIAL.

DISPLAY AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

The English war stores are situate in the sheds in the park, on the right of the great avenue leading from the Point d'Jena; in a fine shed on the river bank, which being reached by a subterranean passage under the road, is likely to be overlooked. The Admiralty shows a beautiful set of models of English ships of war and their appurtenances. Around are grouped the smaller guns, equally complete in their fittings; together with cases of shot and shell and small arms, specimens of uniforms, sets of tools for every military craft, a six-inch plate penetrated in eight places by seven-inch projectiles; a thirteen-inch iron embrasure, twenty tons in weight, battered almost out of shape by repeated attacks by heavy rifled guns; an ambulance wagon, which contrasts unfavorably with the lighter specimens exhibited by other countries; photographs showing the effects of the fire of our guns upon different structures. Among the minor curiosities of this shed is a wrought iron block, six inches thick, cut through and through in spiral curves by a circular saw, driven at the rate of about two hundred and fifty feet per minute. This saw was the invention of M. Perin, a Frenchman, who exhibited it at Paris in 1855, when it was purchased for the Royal Carriage Department. Diverted from its original purpose of cutting wood, it is now used for cutting the brackets, transoms, &c., of iron carriages.

In a contiguous shed the guns, small arms, &c., of private English exhibitors are collected. Sir William Armstrong shows a twelve-ton nine-inch rifled gun, mounted on its carriage, on the construction of which an amount of mechanical ingenuity has been brought to bear which does the inventor the highest credit. We recommend this carriage, with its simple and beautiful appliances for checking recoil, and the very nice arrangement for loading heavy guns on a broadside (a point which has as yet scarcely been sufficiently considered), to the careful examination of every one interested in the subject. The carriage is substantially the same as that which has been adopted by the English government. Sir W. Armstrong, in addition to some projectiles, fuses, &c., shows a field gun on an iron field carriage. The wheels of this carriage are made entirely of iron, and the spokes being removable and interchangeable, and the fellos even being in parts, spare wheels may be carried piecemeal, affording considerable facilities for transport and repair.

Mr. Whitworth exhibits a seven-inch (or one hundred and fifty pounder) gun, a seventy-pounder, a thirty-two pounder, and two field guns. All Mr. Whitworth's guns are made of "mild steel," the successive hoops being forced on by hydraulic pressure. His projectiles, of the hexagonal form with which his name has become associated, include the shrapnel shell which Colonel Boxer designed for the Armstrong and Whitworth's competition. Mr. Whitworth's own very formidable case shot, and some steel shell. The latter are cast under compression by a new process, one which Mr. Whitworth regards as novel, but which we believe has been long applied in the casting of copper and other metals. The process applied to the casting of shells is said to give great uniformity and economy. Mr. Whitworth shows also a machine by which a seven-inch projectile after being turned out of the mold can be planed to the exact size in six minutes—a quicker process undoubtedly than

any by which a cylindrical studded shot can be prepared.

"The last gun in this shed is a 9-inch Palliser gun made at Elswick. It consists of a body of cast-iron round a coiled wrought iron barrel. The distinctive feature of this system of construction was first advocated by Major Palliser in connection with the strengthening of existing cast iron ordnance, into which he proposed to introduce a wrought iron barrel, instead of heaping on to the outside a quantity of so-called strengthening coils. Major Palliser thus strengthened the interior of the gun, where the strain is greatest, instead of the exterior, where the strain, if sensible at all, felt only after it has been imposed upon the interior. The system has achieved considerable success, both in its application to existing guns and in its developed application to the building of new guns.

"When we turn to the shed recently completed by the French war minister the contrast is striking indeed. Our neighbors have certainly not erred on the side of showing their hand. A more common place, uninteresting display than the French exhibition of war stores it would be difficult to conceive. The shed is very large, larger perhaps than our own, and very full; but the contents are absolutely devoid of all interest. Half the shed is taken up with some large well-executed models of second rate fortresses, of some imaginary siege of operations and of an attack of a fortified place in the middle ages. The other half is occupied with a few brass rifled guns of inconceivable calibre, with life size figures of horses.

There is one large French gun shown, but not by the French government. It is a 9-inch gun, made by Petin, Gaudet & Co., of coiled steel. The exhibitors try to persuade one that guns of this class and construction are being issued in large numbers to the French fleet. Diligent inquiry, however, satisfied us that the gun is purely experimental, and probably the only one of the sort existing in France. It is intended to be a breech-loading gun, but with an almost puerile affectation of secrecy, the breech action, which, if it be that adopted by the French government, is as well known in this country to all who care to know as our own Armstrong system, is not exhibited. MM. Petin and Gaudet show a smaller steel gun and some fine examples of steel projectiles and forgings. These are grouped in a shed which contains the other 'exhibits' of the firm, the steel coils which they exhibit are interesting—for such coils are used by the French government to strengthen their cast iron ordnance."

The Buffalo Courier and New York World explain why the "Dunderberg" was allowed to pass into the hands of a foreign Government. They say that "she has size, speed, is splendidly built, can carry an immense armament, and would be a powerful ram if she could get near enough to the opposing vessel. But in this is the difficulty. She is fatally defective in the matter of armour. The more recently constructed English guns would knock her all to pieces before she fairly got into action." This is the case with all the American iron clads, which being, as a rule, cases with laminated armour, can be pierced by Palliser shot as easily as a wooden vessel, are thus rendered useless against British ships of war.

The war contributions levied by Prussia last year amounted to upwards of fifty millions of dollars.

BATTLE STATISTICS.—Some statistics have been published in one of the French newspapers, from which it appears that the number of troops at the battle of Koniggratz was larger than at any other engagement of modern times. The total was however, only 420,000: a figure which will dispel some very common delusions as to certain leading battles which are credited with something like half a million of men. The battle which approaches nearest to Koniggratz was that of Wagram, where the muster was 340,000: at Waterloo there was much more than half that number. In destructiveness Koniggratz and Solferino approach every near to each other, the total at the first-named being 30,000.



AMERICAN INVOICES—DISCOUNTS.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT,

Customs, Quebec, March 6, 1867.

It is directed by the Hon. The Finance Minister, that hereafter Weekly Notices be published and furnished to Collectors of Customs, as to the rate of discount to be allowed on American Invoices, which is to be in accordance with the price of gold as represented by Exchange, at a rate equal thereto.—Such Notices to appear every Saturday in the "Canada Gazette."

R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT,

Customs, Ottawa, June 14, 1867.

In accordance with the above Order, Notice is hereby given that the authorized discount is declared to be this day 25 per cent, which percentage of deduction is to be continued until next Weekly Notice, and to apply to purchases made in the United States during that week.

THOMAS WORTHINGTON,

Assistant Commissioner of Customs.

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