

of eighteen and forty-five years, of good character, and as the service upon which they were about to be employed required more than ordinary physical strength and power of endurance, a strict medical examination was necessary: the men being required, moreover, to sign a service roll, and be regularly attested before a magistrate to serve for one year at least, and one more, in addition, if required by Government. The enlistment to commence on 1st May.

It was recommended, also, that each non-commissioned officer and man of these battalions should be outfitted on enlistment with a free kit, and clothed, armed (with new arms of the most approved description,) and equipped as follows:—

One short Snider rifle, sword bayonet, and accoutrements complete; sixty rounds service ammunition, one knapsack, one haversack, one water bottle, one tin plate and mug, one blanket, one waterproof sheet, one cloth (rifle) tunic, one pair cloth trousers, one great coat, one forage cap, one pair beef boots, one pair ankle boots, one serge frock and pair of trousers, and one mosquito net.

The free kit to consist of two flannel shirts, two pair of socks, one pair of braces, two linen towels, one knife, fork, and spoon, with hold all; one cloth brush, two blacking brushes, one comb, one box blacking, one tin of waterproof blacking, two darning needles, one piece of darning yarn, two ordinary needles, one hank of thread, one piece of soap; and, in addition, for winter use (which was afterwards forwarded to Fort Garry,) one tunic (cloth,) one pair cloth trousers, one winter cap (fur,) one pair mitts, two knitted undershirts, two pairs knitted drawers, and one muffler.

With regard to the appointment of officers, it was recommended that each District, furnishing a quota of men, should furnish company officers in proportion, selected from corps of Active Militia in such District, to be appointed on the recommendation of the Deputy Adjutant General of such Districts; and the selection of field officers and battalion staff to be undertaken by the Adjutant General, both subject to approval; the military efficiency, and fitness in other respects, of the individuals so appointed being alone regarded; thus by the adoption of this mode of appointing officers, justice and impartiality was observed, and very general satisfaction ensued.

The two Chaplains were duly appointed, one from the Church of England, and one from that of Rome; and subsequently the appointment of a Militia Brigade Staff, consisting of one Brigade Major, one Supply Officer, and one Orderly Officer, was approved.

In accordance with the above recommendation, the engagement of the men to form these battalions commenced on the 1st May, and the various companies were concentrated by degrees at Toronto, there clothed and equipped by the Militia Department, and placed under the orders of Colonel Fielden, commanding 1st Battalion 60th Rifles. All the officers were duly appointed (see General Orders marked D in appendix) and gazetted, joining, in due time, their respective corps, and by the month of June, the whole force, in conjunction with their brethren in the Regular Army, proceeded (under command of Colonel J. G. Woolsley—an officer then serving on the Imperial Staff in Canada) on what was so happily termed by His Excellency the Governor General, in His Excellency's speech at the prorogation of Parliament, "their mission of peace."

(To be continued.)

WEAPONS OF THE EUROPEAN WAR.

(From the New York Herald.)

One fact developed by the European contest is the defectiveness of the French and German system of small arms. Although proven at Sedowa superior to the old muzzle-loader, the needle-gun has been an ordinary weapon when opposed to the Chassepot. At Mars-la-Tour and Gravelotte the superior range and initial velocity of the French weapon almost neutralized the advantage possessed by the Germans in artillery, numbers, and generalship. Never at any time during these battles did the Germans succeed in breaking the French line. At Gravelotte especially it was not until the right wing of Bazaine's army had been turned and its rear threatened that the French retired in perfect order upon the fortress of Metz.

Nevertheless, the Chassepot, which is only an improvement on the needle-gun, is also a defective weapon. Both guns are, in fact, constructed on a false principle. The breech mechanism works by means of a bolt, which moves backward and forward in a channel in order to open and close the breech. This occasions great friction, and, as both guns use paper cartridges, there is a general tendency for the gas to escape, thereby fouling the piece and obstructing the operation of the bolt. In addition, the channel in which the bolt acts frequently conducts the gas back to the face of the soldier firing the gun, rendering it dangerous to handle. But, as we have said before, the superior range of the Chassepot has been a decided benefit to the French, and accounts in a measure for the desperate resistance Douay's brigade at Weissenburg and MacMahon's corps at Woerth were able to offer to the immensely superior forces which attacked them.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the Chassepot, though superior to the needle-gun, has been proven inferior to many American and English breech-loading rifles. As we remarked before, the system on which both the French and German guns are made is bad. Experience has demonstrated the defectiveness of all breech-loading small arms in which paper cartridges are used, when opposed to similar arms charged with metallic cartridges, and simply because it is difficult to prevent the fouling of the breech apparatus with the first, and next to impossible for there to be any fouling with the second, if the breech-piece be constructed on sound scientific principles.

In the matter of small arms our Government has displayed much wisdom in selecting a weapon which is not only superior to the Chassepot and needle-gun, but also to the English Snider and any other breech-loader yet tested. One hundred thousand Americans armed with the Remington rifle, which has been adopted by the United States Navy, and officially reported for adoption by the Army, would be more than a match for a similar force of French, Germans, or English armed with their present weapons, if both armies were equal in artillery and generalship. The simplicity of its mechanism, its durability, its strength in resisting the recoil of the charge, its facility of execution, rapidity of firing, and accuracy of range, combine to make it probably the best military arm in the world, such is the opinion of many of our Army officers, including Generals Sherman, Sheridan, and Schofield; and such also is the opinion of the Spanish, Swedish, Egyptian, Danish, and, though too late, French governments, which have ordered large numbers, while rejecting native or European inventions. But if we even had no Remingtons, we would

still possess an advantage over the principal European nations in the matter of small arms. The converted Springfield, which is also used by our Government, the Peabody, the Spencer, and Winchester repeating rifles and half a dozen others whose names we cannot recall to mind, are as much superior to the Chassepot, needle gun and Snider as these latter are to the muzzle loader.

But while we are as safe as science can make us in our small arms we are deficient in artillery. During the rebellion the favorite field pieces in our army were the rifled Parrot and the Napoleon smooth bore. Both are undoubtedly good guns, but neither can compare with the breech loading cannon used by the Germans. The correspondents in their reports of battles fought between the French and Germans, have invariably stated that "before the French could even catch a glimpse of the enemy they were compelled to sustain a fearfully effective fire, so great was the range of the German guns. In fact, the war in Franco has been decided by artillery. Formidable as is the French mitrailleuse, it cannot compete with the German rifled breech-loader. It certainly can fire a great many balls in an incredibly short space of time, but it is incapable of spreading the missiles which it discharges. These follow a single line and do not diverge; hence, unless the mitrailleuse be parked on a battle field, its effect is scarcely greater than that of canister thrown from a twelve-pounder Napoleon field piece at easy range. At long distances it is powerless when opposed to the German gun.

We have the Gatling gun adopted for the Army, a mitrailleuse superior to that used by the French, but we have no breech-loading cannon. Of what avail then, would be our superiority in small arms if our army went into battle supported by rifled Parrotts and Napoleon smooth-bore guns, if, as has been the case in Franco, it was opposed with a force armed with the same artillery used by the Germans? Clearly none. At the Springfield armory the Government is manufacturing Remingtons, and converting the old muzzle-loading rifle on the Allen system; but it is doing nothing, so far as we are aware to improve our artillery. It is true that there is no immediate prospect of our engaging in war with a foreign power. The Alabama claims and fisheries question will doubtless be amicably settled. But we know not at what time questions may arise and involve us in war. It will not do to wait till the contest is upon us before preparing to meet it. Our Government should at once have our artillery reconstituted and made equal to, if not, better than the breech loading cannon. In our artillery lies our military deficiency and our military weakness, which if not remedied may involve us in serious disasters.

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