

the services on which they have been engaged. The "Emerald" is not in commission, but is available for service if required.

The Prussian Order of the Red Eagle of the second class has been conferred on Colonel Swaine, C.B., the Military Attaché to the British Embassy at Berlin.

Dalziel's agency brings intelligence from Paris of a surprising character. It is stated that an appendix to the Budget of the French Minister of Marine has been laid on the table of the Chamber of Deputies, which gives some particulars of the ships to be built next year. According to this telegram the number of ships which are to be put in construction will not only be very small, but that several of those which were mentioned in the Budget of 1894 will be abandoned or postponed for an indefinite period. Several torpedo catchers and torpedo boats are also included in the Budget. Does this mean that the French people are getting tired of competing with the British Government in the construction of naval armaments?

The official trials of the new powerful cruiser "Blanco Encalada," constructed for the China Navy by Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co., of Elswick, and engined by Messrs. Humphrys, Tennant & Co., of Deptford, have been most successfully completed off the Tyne. This vessel has been built from the designs of Mr. Philip Watts, of the Elswick Works. Her principal dimensions are—Length, 370 feet; breadth, 46 feet 6 inches; and mean draft, 18 feet 6 inches, at which her displacement is 4,500 tons. She is built entirely of steel and is sheathed with wood and coppered. A steel protective deck runs throughout her whole length, its thickness varying from 4 inches on its sloping sides to 1½ inch in the flat parts. The propelling machinery consists of two complete sets of twin-screw triple-expansion engines. The armament of the vessel consists of two 8 inch breech-loading guns (one forward and one aft), ten 6-inch, twelve 3-pounder, and ten 1-pounder quick-firing guns, and two Gatlings. The vessel is also fitted with five tubes for discharging torpedoes.

"A propos" of the publication of the first two volumes dealing with the history of Prussian regimental colours, from which, among other interesting details, it appears that, in the campaigns of 1864 and 1866, 99 regimental colours, or pennons were struck in action; whilst 151 were similarly hit, and thirty-eight officers carrying colours were killed outright on the German side during the Franco-German war. The "Echo de l'Armée" of May 27 has a noteworthy article detailing many of the deeds of heroism performed in connection with the defence of French colours in the earlier part of the last war. Thus, out of 108 regimental colours carried into the field at Wissembourg, Frœschwiller, Beaumont, Mouzon,

Sedan, Forbach, Borny, Rézonville, Saint-Privat, Servigny, and Ladonchamps, no less than forty-seven officers were either killed or wounded with the colours in their hands, thus making the casualties average close upon 45 per cent. In some instances the colours passed through as many as from four to eight and nine different hands before being finally borne off the field. As an epitome of the heroic fights round the eagles of the Armies of the Rhine, of Châlons, and of Metz, Louis Yvert's article deserves special attention.

The Commander-in-Chief has confirmed the conviction of fifteen Sepoys of the 17th Bengal Infantry, but has reduced the sentence passed upon them to an average of two years' imprisonment, sending back the case of the Native officer for reconsideration with a view to his punishment being made more severe. This action has met with general approval for the case, though one of technical mutiny, was really only the outcome of sulkiness and stupidity among notoriously ignorant men.

According to an Indian paper the tallest man on the active strength of the Army is Bomb. Henry Wheeler, B Battery of the R.H.A., at present stationed at Rawal Pindi, Bengal. A native of Reading, this sort of Anak stands 6ft. 7½ in. He measures over 41 in. round the chest, and weighs 15st. 8lbs. He is 24 years of age. At 18 he made an attempt to join the Life Guards, but was rejected on account of being too bulky for his age. It was besides feared that eventually no horse would be fit to carry him. Then Wheeler entered the Royal Artillery. He comes of a family of grenadiers of a type that would have delighted the heart of Frederic the Great. His father and mother are about 6ft., and his brothers and sisters that stature. Lately there was a height contest among the troops stationed in India. Wheeler won easily; the second being a man of the 1st Hampshire Regiment, of 6ft. 5½ in., and the third a gunner of the Mountain Battery R.A., an inch less in stature than the infantryman.

Ontario Rifle Association.

A meeting of the Council of the Ontario Rifle Association was held yesterday in the Military Institute, Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., in the chair. There were present: Lieut.-Col. Graveley; Lieut.-Col. White, 30th Batt.; Major J. J. Mason, 13th Batt.; Major W. C. Macdonald, 48th; Major Henderson, 48th; Major Orchard, 48th; Capt. Unitt, 12th Batt.; Lieut. A. D. Cartwright, 47th; Lieut. A. Pam, 13th; Lieut. A. Elliott, 12th; Lieut. W. R. P. Pringle, 10th R.G.; Lieut. T. Mitchell, 12th; Staff-Sergt. R. McVittie, 10th; Mr. John Crowe, Guelph; Mr. Jos. Johnston, Toronto; Capt. Mutton, secretary.

It was moved by Major Macdonald, seconded by Lieut. A. Pam, that the financial report be adopted. Carried.

Major Macdonald reported progress on behalf of the committee appointed to nominate some suitable person for the presidency of the association, and in doing so suggested the necessity for revising the constitution of the association, so as to provide that the president should be elected by the association instead of by the council, as at present, and that the council should elect a chairman from their own number. In this respect, following out the principle on which the constitution of the National and Dominion Rifle Associations are framed; and furthermore suggested the appointment of an executive committee of the council, which should be held responsible for and control all expenditures made. He also suggested that the annual meeting of the association and of the council should take place on a fixed date in the early part of each year. This would ensure the regular publication of the annual statement and report, and also the better management and control of the affairs of the association. These suggestions were unanimously endorsed by the meeting, and the following committee was appointed to consider what changes, if any, are necessary in the constitution of the association to further its objects and report at an adjourned meeting of the council. The committee is as follows: Majors Mason, Macdonald, Henderson, Capt. Mercer, Lieuts. Cartwright and Elliott.

It was moved by Lieut. T. Mitchell and seconded by Major Orchard, that the annual matches of the association commence on Tuesday, 21st August, with extra series at ten o'clock, and the regular matches at one o'clock. Carried. This motion was made to enable riflemen from a distance to get to the matches by leaving home on Monday instead of Saturday.

The following were appointed a committee to arrange for the annual match: Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Major J. J. Mason, Major S. Hughes, Major W. C. Macdonald, Capt. Mercer, Mr. John Crowe, Lieut. Elliott, Lieut. Pringle, Lieut.-Col. Graveley and Capt. Mutton. The amount of money to be devoted to the prize list was left to the committee. Mr. Crowe brought up the question of position at 200 yards, pointing out that the regulations were not definite enough, some competitors sitting on the side of the foot instead of on the heel, others rolling up a mat and placing it under the instep of the foot. He asked that the regulations be so worded as to prevent any unfair positions, and the enforcement of the Hythe position. Lieut. Elliott suggested the same as regards the standing position. After considerable discussion, in which most of those present joined, the matter was left in the hands of the Match Committee.

Lieut. T. Mitchell moved, seconded by Major Henderson, that the regulations for the association matches be as nearly as possible the same as those adopted at Bisley. Carried.

It was moved by Lieut. Elliott, seconded by Lieut. Pringle, that it be optional with competitors to use either the Martini or Snider rifle at all matches of the association. Carried.

It was moved by Lieut. Pringle, seconded by Staff-Sergt. McVittie, that the 200 yards target as used this year at Bisley be adopted. The dimensions are: Bullseye, 8 inches; inner, 20 inches; magpie, 32 inches; outer, remainder of target. This was carried.

Major Macdonald moved, seconded by Lieut. Pam, and carried, that the Match Committee be authorized, if they consider it expedient, to have a new butt built in the rear of the 500 yards firing point.—*Toronto Mail, June 19th.*