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## AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

and the sword we draw,  
the sword the Law?

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1876.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.** Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the word "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage. No communication, however, will be inserted unless the writer's name is given, not necessarily for publication, but that we may know from whom it is sent.

We have for the past nine years endeavored to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support, but we regret to say we have not met with that tangible encouragement which we confidently expected when we undertook the publication of a paper wholly devoted to their interests. We now appeal to their civility and ask each of our subscribers to procure another, or to a person sending us the names of four or five new subscribers and the money will be entitled to receive one copy for the year free. A little exertion on the part of our friends would greatly assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Forces—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the *Volunteer Review* in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it? Premiums will be given to those getting up the largest lists. The *Review* being the only military paper published in Canada, it ought to be liberally supported by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of each Battalion.

\* According to the Director of the Berlin Statistical Bureau, the losses in killed and wounded by rifle balls in the Franco-German war amounted to ninety per cent. of the whole, so that only ten per cent. were caused by artillery fire and sabre cuts, the latter scarcely amounting to one per cent. The artillery of the French did about one-eighth of the execution of the Chassepot and other breech-loading rifles. The *Army and Navy Gazette* estimates that the German artillery fire was certainly more destructive than that of the French, and the losses of the latter must have been proportionately higher,

though trifling when compared with what they will be in the next war, when both parties will use Shrapnel and range-finders. It was observed that the French time fuses fired from muzzle loaders were very ineffective, whereas the Prussian percussion-shells from breech-loaders seldom failed unless in soft ground or water. From the German statistics it would appear that the breech loaders cut slightly increased the percentage of losses, which was at Magenta 7 per cent. for the French and Austrians respectively, at Solferino 10 per cent. for the French and Sardinians, and the Austrians 8 per cent. At Friedland the French lost 14 per cent. in killed and wounded, the Prussians 30 per cent. At Waterloo, the French 36 per cent. the Allies 30 per cent.

A Military friend used to describe field artillery in his day as "good to make a noise and frighten recruits." If the foregoing paragraph is correct, it is evident that the *Volunteer Review* has not only improved rather in price, or power of mischief, notwithstanding the interminable row the literary members of the corps have got up in glorification of their own arm of the service. It is evident that the principle we have always held respecting the Infantry corps of an army doing all the work on the field of battle is correct, and that the role of artillery is simply to keep down the fire of its opposing arm and frighten (shock) the opposing infantry.

The paragraph induces the consideration as to the precise mode of training requisite for Infantry soldiers, inasmuch as on the careful manipulation of that arm the final results must depend; and in this case the necessity for inculcating a feeling of contempt for mere noise is apparent. A soldier should be taught to approach the enemy's line under cover, and also to assail his artillery in like manner.

In those cases simplicity of manoeuvres would be the great desiderata, for the accurate rifle is not as deadly in action as the old *Brown Bess*, if the paragraph is correct; nor has the breech-loader materially altered the features of the case.

Our course of training will not make steady soldiers—we have not go beyond preliminary drills—and our camps of instruction are only schools of minor tactics on a large scale of little positive use to the force.

Our readers will find in another column an article on the "Chalk Hill Tunnel," which is both an amusing and clever canard manufactured for our lively cousins south of forty-five. It is remarkably well put together, and only wants one element to make it valuable.

The market value of Silver as a metal has been steadily declining for some time, it is worth only four shillings and two pence per ounce in the English market, and as it affects the East Indian possessions of Great Britain to such an extent as to bring on a financial crisis, a Parliamentary committee was appointed to investigate the cause. The following is a synopsis of its report:—

The report of the Select Committee on the Depreciation of Silver, prepared by Mr. Goschen, the chairman, was issued on Monday. The committee do not make any recommendations with regard to legislation, and they consider that "in view of the many uncertain elements to which they have pointed, and which necessarily enter into every calculation as to the future, they are not authorized to offer any further opinion as to the probable course of the silver market, beyond indicating, as they have endeavored to do, the various circumstances which have to be taken into account." The committee are of opinion that the evidence taken conclusively shows that the fall in the price of silver is due to the following causes:—

1. To the discovery of new silver mines of great richness in the State of Nevada.
2. To the introduction of a gold currency into Germany in place of the previous silver currency. This operation commenced at the end of 1871.
3. To the decreased demand for silver for export to India. It should be noted—4. That the Scandinavian Governments have also substituted gold for silver in their currencies.
5. That the Latin Union, comprising France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and Greece, have since 1874 limited the amount of silver to be coined yearly in the Mints of each member of the union, suspending the privilege formerly accorded to all holders of silver bullion of claiming to have that bullion turned into coin without restriction.
6. That Holland has also passed a temporary Act prohibiting, except on account of the Government, the coining of silver, and authorising the coining of gold.

With regard to India and the East, the committee say:—"So much must depend upon the prosperity of the populations, on the abundance of the crops, in fact, on their powers of production, that it is impossible to make any forecast; and, as regards actual facts, no more can be stated than that on the one hand, they have always possessed a very large power of absorbing bullion; while, on the other, that power has been diminished by the growth of the sums annually payable by India to the Home Government. The only facts in any calculation as to the future which are certain, and appear to be permanent, are the increased total production of silver, and the effect caused by the necessity of the Indian Government to draw annually for a large amount. Both are adverse to the future value of silver, as far as they go; but they may be partially counterbalanced by changes in the trade with the East."

The London correspondent of the *New York World*, of July 14th, indulges in the following bit of military criticism:—"A section of the army is playing at 'mobilization.' The country has been divided into military districts and the troops sent to occupy them, the theory being that in case of invasion the same troops (chiefly militia and volunteers) will know their positions and be able to move to them without confusion. If an invasion should ever happen, it seems to me that the inhabitants of the districts where the camps are placed will sadly need to be protected from their protectors. There is a camp close by where I spend three or four days in the week, in Surrey, and the other day I went and had a look at it. It struck me as being very lucky for the troops on the spot that no enemy had been near them lately. They were encamped on a large common."