

en. The Beckford fuse, and the time fuse, made by the Artillery, were used to ignite the cartridges. The Beckford fuse invariably gave excellent results. As to the time fuse, it acted as usual in a very irregular manner. Thus, of two of these fuses, which ought to burn for a minute, the first one burnt for a minute and thirty seconds, the second for one minute, fifty seconds before producing an explosion. It may, however, be observed that these fuses had been made two years, which may partly account for their irregularity. It is most important that in the field simple and certain means of ignition should be employed; the engineers should consequently invariably make use of the Beckford fuse instead of the time fuse.

THE ASHANTEE WAR

The danger to which men are exposed who take part in the war on the Gold Coast, may be gathered from the following instructions and advice which has been issued by Sir Garnet Wolseley for the guidance of the soldiers and sailors who are about to take part in the attack on Coomassie. Besides giving the men good advice relative to their health, he describes, for their guidance, the mode of fighting the most applicable in dealing with the Ashantees.

On this subject Sir Garnet says:—"The climate is much better and more pleasant in the interior than on the seashore, and if ordinary precautions are taken there is no reason why any of the troops should suffer in health during the few weeks that they have to remain in the country. The officers must see that tea or chocolate with a little biscuit is provided for their men every morning before marching, and quinine will be served out by the medical officers. During the heat of the day, or when marching late in the morning, commanding officers may, at their discretion allow the patrol jackets to be taken off and carried by the men. These can be easily carried slung behind under the waist-belt. Immediately that the march is over, or if any long halt takes place, these jackets must be put on, for a chill when the body is heated is, above all things, to be avoided.

Never allow the body to suffer a chill, and there will not be much chance of your ever being sick. Never expose the head uncovered to the sun, and when halting or on sentry get into the shade if possible. When camping for the night do your best to construct a raised sleeping place, even a few inches off the ground.

In reference to the mode of fighting, the General states:—"The theatre of operations will be a great forest of gigantic trees, in an undergrowth of bush varying in thickness. At some places men can get through the bush in skirmishing order; at others they will have to use the sword bayonet to open paths for themselves. All the fighting will be in skirmishing order, the files being two, three, or four paces apart, according to circumstances. Every company will, therefore, be at once divided into four sections, and each section will be placed under the command of an officer or non-commissioned officer. These sections, once told off, are not, on any account, to be broken up during the war, nor are the commanders to be changed except under extraordinary circumstances, and then only by order of the officer commanding the battalion. All details of duty will be performed by sections, or, when only small guards or pickets are required, by half section. In action, as a general rule, the three sections only of each company will be extended, and the fourth will form a support

in rear of the centre of the company's skirmishing line, and at from 40 to 80 yards from it. Care must be taken that the support never loses sight of its own skirmishers and that it conforms to their movements, but its commanders must never allow it to become mixed up with the skirmishers, unless it is ordered forward by the officer commanding the company. The captain will always be with the skirmishing line, exercising a general control over it, and as the enemy only fight in loose skirmishing order it will seldom be necessary to bring forward the support into the skirmishing line. The Ashantees always employ the same tactics. Being superior in numbers they encircle the enemy's flanks by long thin lines of skirmishers, hoping thereby to demoralize their opponents. The men engaged in our front line should not concern themselves about these flank attacks. They must have the same confidence in their general that he has in them, and depend upon him to take the necessary measures for meeting all such attacks either in flank or rear.

"In action the two companies forming each file must always keep together, and the officers and non-commissioned officers commanding sections will use their utmost endeavours to keep their sections from mixing up with those on their right and left. If during the advance into the bush, fire is unexpectedly opened by the enemy concealed behind cover, the men will immediately drop on their knees behind trees or any cover that may be at hand, pausing well before delivering their fire, and taking care to fire low at the spots from which the enemy were seen to fire. All firing against a concealed enemy should be slow, and officers and non-commissioned officers in command of sections must spare no efforts to prevent the men from wasting their ammunition. It must be explained to the men that, owing to the difficulties of transport, the supply of ammunition beyond the Prah will be very limited and that every shot fired which is not deliberately aimed not only encourages the enemy, who would soon learn to despise a fire that did them no injury, but seriously affects the efficiency of the force, for if ammunition were to run short a stop would be put to our further advance. The advance will be made along narrow paths, where the men can only march in file, and sometimes only in single file. When an action commences, the troops on the centre path will deploy to the front in skirmishing order, either to the right or left of the path, as ordered, upon the leading file. The rear section of each company will always form the support, and officers commanding companies will be careful to lead these deployments, so that their front may always be as nearly as possible at right angles to the path they had been marching upon. Whenever the advance and double is sounded, it is to be understood to order a general advance of the whole front line upon the enemy. The men will then advance, clearing at a fast walk, making short rushes whenever the nature of the ground will allow of their being made. All such advances will be preceded by a heavy fire of guns and rockets. On reaching a clearing, in the course of an action, or when the enemy is in the immediate neighbourhood, the troops will not cross over the open space until the clearing has been turned, and the bush on both sides of it has been occupied. When once a position has been gained, it is to be held resolutely. All plundering and unnecessary destruction of property are to be strictly repressed. Officers are held

responsible that when a village or camp is occupied their men are kept together, and prevented from dispersing to seek plunder.

It must never be forgotten by our soldiers that Providence has implanted in the heart of every native of Africa a superstitious awe and dread of the white man, that prevents the negro from daring to meet us face to face in the combat. A steady advance or a charge, made with a determination, always means the retreat of the enemy. Although when at a distance, and even when under a heavy fire, the Ashantees seem brave enough, from their practice of yelling and singing and beating drums in order to frighten the enemies of their own colour with whom they are accustomed to make war, they will not stand against the advance of the white man, English soldiers and sailors are accustomed to fight against immense odds in all parts of the world. It is scarcely necessary to remind them that when, in our battles beyond the Prah, they will find themselves surrounded on all sides by hordes of howling enemies, they must rely upon their own British courage and discipline, and upon the courage of their comrades. Soldiers and sailors remember that the black man holds you in superstitious awe. Be cool, fire low, and charge home; and the more numerous your enemy, the greater will be the loss inflicted upon him, and the greater your honor in defeating him."

ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The Council of this body met in Toronto on the 17th. Mr. John Gordon, of Toronto, was appointed President, in place of Lt Colonel C. S. Gzowski, resigned. The ex-President signified his intention of this year giving his annual subscription of \$100 to the Association, accompanied by a silver cup as a prize to be called "Lieut. Colonel Gzowski, ex-President's prize," and to be competed for on terms and in a manner to be determined by the Council, with the condition that it shall remain permanently the property of the Association. The Council decided to again vote the bonus of \$20 to affiliating Associations for 1874, together with a special badge; on condition that the winner of the badge should present himself at the Ontario Rifle Association matches for 1875, to compete in a match provided for the purpose as a means of insuring a full representation from affiliating Associations, and to aid in the selection of marksmen from Ontario at future Dominion and Wimbledon competitions. A balance of \$512 remains in the hands of the Treasurer after paying expenses.—*Belleville Intelligence.*

WE understand it is the intention of the Governor General's Foot Guards to give a Vocal and instrumental concert in aid of the Reading Room and Library Fund, on the 24th inst. The concert will be under the patronage of their Excellencies Lord and Lady Dufferin.

A complimentary banquet was given at the Albion Hotel to the Masonic brethren of Ogdenburgh, by their brothers of the Mystic Tie, belonging to the Baiter's and Eddy Lodges of the city of Ottawa and Hull.

WE are glad to see that justice has been done to the Ottawa Valley in the elevation of the Hon. H. W. Scott to the Senate.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We are obliged to lay over, till next issue the communication of "Canadian" and other correspondence.