

The trials by different regiments in India and England a year ago showed many defects, and these defects instead of being remedied and the rifles sent back to the troops for new trials are said to have been patched up and hidden from the public as far as possible. The manufacture of the rifles, with these faults, has been forced on, and now when the 1st army corps stationed in England are about to be armed entirely with these new weapons the true state of affairs is beginning to leak out. On the 7th December last the "*A. & H.G. Gazette*" publishes the following strong statement:—

"The British public is congratulating itself on its recent acquisition of a rifle which is to 'lick creation,' and which has been asserted to be as perfect a weapon as it is possible to turn out, combining, as it does, high accuracy of fire, rapid loading, and an action which is second to none in the world. As regards accuracy, there can be but little dispute as to its merits on that score, and rapidity of loading has been secured subject to certain sacrifices in the way of handiness; but when we come to the action, we cannot altogether congratulate the British taxpayer on his new toy. The manufacture of the new rifle is proceeding apace, presumably on the assumption that the mechanism is perfect; yet it must be well known to some, at least, among the committee that there are serious defects in the new action, and that it is liable to get out of order in a very simple manner. Possibly the committee leave all the practical details to the Enfield folk, and are satisfied so long as they are assured by these people that everything is correct; yet, in view of the opinions expressed by many practical men unconnected with Enfield, as to the practicability and durability of the new action, it is surely time that some further enquiry were made into the working of this action and its liability to get out of order. However good the barrels may be, and however accurate the fire, the new rifle will prove of little service if issued with a faulty action. Some thoroughly practical men are already predicting that a change will have to be made ere long; but what would official life be worth without perpetual and ever-recurring changes? Altogether, in spite of the great delay which has taken place, we do not yet seem to be in possession of a rifle which can be thoroughly relied upon in every detail. Has sufficient attention and inquiry been bestowed upon the body and socket-piece of the new action, and is it not a fact that the whole action can be thrown out of order in a very simple manner? These are questions which require answer, and that promptly."

We should not be surprised to see Martinis still used upon active service and to note an official acknowledgment that the problem of the "best military rifle" is still unsolved.

The defences of Malta are to be strengthened by the establishment of a station for discharging the newly-invented Brennan torpedoes. Two stations have been established in England—one at Sheerness for the defence of the Medway, and one at the Isle of Wight for the defence of Portsmouth.

Capt. Palliser has written to the press correcting the announcement that the French and Germans are about to change their steel guns for gun-metal guns. He believes that the Germans are about to give up powder bags, substituting "fixed ammunition," which means a solid-drawn copper case containing the powder, with the projectile fixed in iron.

Amazing results are reported with the Lebel rifle, adopted by the French Army. In the experiments recently carried out at Marseilles, the extreme range of 200 yards was selected, and the targets consisted of sacks of flour, metal plates, wood, and a dead horse. The fact that the bullet entered the horse at one end and emerged at the other seems to have tickled the fancy of those present immensely.

A Frenchman (M. Bieunnait) is said to have found the means of replacing a metal shell of cartridges by one of a vegetable composition, which will be entirely consumed in firing. This cartridge scarcely weighs one-half of a metal cartridge, the price is considerably less, and M. Bieunnait has a contrivance, which may be easily affixed to every gun, at small expense, and which would give to his vegetable shell the same advantage as possessed by those now in use in closing the breech.

The Dominion Artillery Association.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association will be held at Ottawa on Thursday, 6th February, 1890. A meeting of the Council will be held the day previous at 2 p.m., in the office of the Inspector of Artillery. The following notices of motion—"Alteration to rules"—have been published for general information, by Capt. J. B. Donaldson, secretary:—

Toronto, 12th December, 1889.

Sir:—I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a proposed draft of New Rules for the Dominion Artillery Association, which I intend moving at the next general meeting.

Nothing in the enclosed is intended to remove the present patron, vice-patrons and life members from their positions in the association.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Capt. J. B. Donaldson,

Your obedient servant,

Secy. Dom. Art. Assn., Ottawa.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING.

Draft of Proposed Constitution.

- I. NAME.—The Dominion of Canada Artillery Association.
- II. OBJECTS.—The development of gunnery skill and the dissemination of artillery knowledge throughout the Dominion of Canada.
- III. PATRONS.—The Governor-General of the Dominion and the Lieutenant-Governors and territories shall be respectfully requested to become patron and vice-patrons respectively of the association; and at any annual general meeting of the association other names may be added to the list of vice-patrons.
- IV. CONSTITUTION.—1. The association shall consist of ordinary members, corporate members, honorary members and associates.
 2. There shall be three classes of ordinary members.
 3. Any person who pays an annual subscription of \$2, or a life subscription of \$20 in cash at any one time, or a prize of not less value than \$40 for open competition at a general prize meeting, is an ordinary member.
 4. All members of provincial artillery associations, who shall contribute \$1 annually (through such association) to the funds of the Dominion association, shall be members of the Dominion association.
 5. Any public body, any provincial artillery association, any battery of artillery, either field or garrison, paying to the funds of the association an annual subscription of not less than:—public body \$10; provincial artillery association, \$2.50 per battery composing such association; field battery not in a provincial association, \$10; and garrison battery not in a provincial association, \$6, is a corporate member.
 6. An honorary member shall be one to whom the freedom of the association has been presented at a general meeting, for important services rendered the association or its representatives. He shall be exempt from the payment of any subscription, and shall be entitled for life to all the privileges of the Association, except those of holding office and voting.
 7. Any person who pays \$1 per annum is an associate for the annual meeting for which such payment is made.
 8. The officers of the association shall be a president, four vice-presidents and a secretary-treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by the members and associates at the annual general meeting, and shall hold office until the appointments of the following year are made.
- V. THE PRESIDENT.—1. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all general meetings of the association at which he is present, and he shall regulate and keep order in the proceedings.
 2. In the absence of the president, it shall be the duty of the senior vice-president present to preside at the meetings and regulate the proceedings. But in the absence of the president and vice-presidents, the members and associates present may elect one of their number to take the chair at such meeting.
- VI. TREASURER.—1. Shall keep an account of all the moneys of the association and of all dealings therewith.
 2. All money received for or on account of the association, shall be paid over to the treasurer, who shall deposit the same in some bank to the account and for the use of the association, unless otherwise ordered by the council.
 3. No money of the association shall be paid out except by order of the chairman of the council, and cheques shall be drawn in such a manner as the council shall from time to time direct.
 4. He shall furnish to the council on the 15 January of each year a detailed statement of all receipts and expenditures.
- VII. SECRETARY.—1. His duty shall be to take minutes of all the proceedings of the association and on council meetings, and enter them in the proper books; to read at each meeting the minutes of the preceding meeting with a view to their verification, and, subject to the direction of the chairman, to bring before the meeting all business matters according to the order established in that behalf. He shall