

Under the head of "The Rifle" in this issue there appears the details of a remarkably high score made last week by Capt. Hartt of the St. John Rifles. He has long had the reputation of being one of the most reliable of the Dominion marksmen, and on occasions like this, when closely pressed, he has time and again distinguished himself by his coolness and skill. Capt. Hartt was one of those who declined a proffered place on this year's Wimbledon team. He now has the Canadian record for this season, the highest heretofore noted being 98, by Staff-Sergt. McVittie at Toronto.

European Gossip.

(Correspondence Volunteer Record.)

Free passes for one admission to the Exhibition have been granted to every soldier forming part of the garrison of Paris. A limited number of tickets, with free railway fares, will be also given to their comrades in the provinces who may have deserved the selection of their officers for the indulgence by their exceptional good conduct and ready discipline.

The *Berliner Tagblatt* contains the following advertisement in one of its late issues:—"300 mark (£15) premium is offered to anyone who will secure to an officer (*Hauptmann*, or Captain), who has already given evidence of his administrative capacities, the appointment of Mayor (*Bürgermeisterstelle*) in a small country town." This appears a novel method of assuring a safe retreat from active service to a position on half-pay.

It is not unusual to see females acting as markers or loading the Flaubert rifles in many of the shooting galleries at French fairs and other places where firing goes on under the conditions so frequently described in your columns. At Macon, recently, an amateur at the targets sent his bullet, by misadventure, through the head of a young woman who superintended the practice, and killed her on the spot. He was honourably acquitted on trial.

In various countries the dog of the regiment has not only been esteemed and caressed during its lifetime, but on its interment after death, has frequently been consigned to the grave with some semblance of military honours. Our transatlantic cousins, if a French journal is to be believed, have gone further in evincing their respect for the four-footed animals that have done service with the colours. Recently, at Cincinnati, the battle-charger of General Buckland Burney (?) died at the venerable age, for its species, of 37 years. The "old horse," which had borne its owner, unscathed, on many a well-fought field during the Secession War, was carried to its grave, in a corner of the public cemetery, on a gun-carriage, and escorted by aged Militiamen who had participated in the bitter conflicts between the North and South divisions of the Great Republic. The veterans fired the three regulation volleys over the remains of their animal comrade as a finale to the proceedings.

More foreign soldiery have arrived in Paris to add to the attractions at the Exhibition in the native or stranger military sections. Seven horsemen, mounted on gaily-caparisoned Arab steeds, who form part both of the body guard of the Bey of Tunis and of the gendarmery of the Franco-African Protectorat, are now to be daily seen amongst the wild and tame tribes congregated together on the Invalides grounds. They sport a characteristic Oriental uniform, like the troops of the feudatory Princes to our rule in India. Loose pajamas of silk in vivid striated colours and close-fitting deep waistcoats of the same material and hues, richly embroidered with gold lace. Broad sashes of bright tints encircle their waists, in which are stuck long-butted and barrelled pistols, dear to the recollections of rural boyhood in England as "sparrow shooters," but the Tunisian "barkers" gleam with inlaid gold and silver arabesques on wood and metal alike. A curved yataghan and a scimitar, long, heavy, and nearly as broad in blade as the planing-axe of a shipwright, make up the equipment of the tawny-complexioned soldier-police, whose sole identity in costume, otherwise, is composed of a blue burnous in which they are draped from head to foot. Their individual belongings in the shape of apparel rival the advertised description of Joseph's coat of many colours. They are more imposing than important as combatants!

In France, as a general rule, the dead obtain a far greater degree of respect than the living, however slight might have proved the claims of the deceased either to the honour or favourable regard of posterity. Statues, busts, commemorative tablets or memorials in some shape or other abound in Paris streets, and in fact throughout the whole land, dedicated to a host of personages of more or less note in native history. The fame, good or bad, the features and records of the life and acts are

cherished of certain individuals who, in other countries, would have been, if not forgotten, at least merely remembered but by name, in the narrative of the events of their time with which the departed mediocrities were connected. The bloodthirsty Danton will shortly figure amongst the statue-array of Paris, and it is but one instance, how far this form of hero-worship, and the direction to which it is extended, is carried on in France. There is an association in Paris whose sole aim is to perpetuate by divers monuments all the past glories, and apparently also, all the disgraces in the national annals. The last idea of these funereal enthusiasts is to erect a cenotaph or some other kind of mortuary construction on the plains of Waterloo, only 74 years after the event, to face the Netherlands Lion on the mound of bones, the Gordon memorial, and the monument to the German Legion that have stood on the classic field for many a decade since the First Napoleon met his final match.

THE PARIS FIRING COMPETITION.

The preliminaries for a scheme to organise a gigantic firing competition for long and short barrels in military usage, to take place during the period of the Universal Exhibition at Paris, have just been definitely arranged. The Central Society of "Tir et Gymnase" have taken the matter in hand, and from their own body, and other Associations throughout France, affiliated for similar objects, a committee of direction has been formed. The deliberating assemblage is very strong, on the principal, apparently, of wisdom dwelling with a multitude of counsellors, and thus 42 persons will lay their heads together to settle the details of the programme of events. The board consists of one Councillor-General, five Municipal Councillors, two members of the Administration of the Central Society, four members of the Army, two representatives of the Press (special) and 24 of the best-known French marksmen.

It is settled that the meeting will be held on the Vincennes ranges, and is to last 20 days, from the eighth to the 27th of August, inclusive, and the firing is to be exclusively limited to the national military firearms, long range rifles and regulation revolvers. One hundred targets are to be fixed for rifles at varying distances to the extreme limit of 975 feet or the altitude of the Eiffel tower, and for revolvers at the range of 97—5 feet. Although the competition is not to be considered as an international trial, yet foreigners will be allowed to try their fortune, upon particular invitation (?). How many of our Wimbledon Sixties will be bidden to this friendly lead remains a query, with the dubious sentiments generally entertained in France towards the English nation.

The outlay necessitated to meet the expenses of the Paris rifle meeting, in paying the committee, arranging the ground, erecting stands, butts, etc., engaging assistants and satisfying the police and troops for their extra services on guard, besides the value of the prizes, is calculated at 150,000-frs. (£6,000). The shooting fees and gate money, with reserved seats, are estimated to produce but 165,000-frs. (£6,600), and as unforeseen, though inevitable, expenses to the amount of 175,000-frs. (£7,000) have had to be considered in excess on the working expenditure, the Government and the City of Paris have come forward with offers to make up the difference to the Central Society and promoters of the Paris Exhibition Firing Competition of 1889.

It appears from the preliminary returns of the British army, that the average strength of the regular army during the year was 211,105 men, as compared with 191,290 in 1879, and 186,668 in 1869.

The *Volunteer Service Gazette* thus refers to a subject now agitating the minds of the volunteers of Great Britain: "Many of our correspondents are writing to us to urge the desirability of permitting officers and sergeants of scarlet volunteer infantry wearing sashes instead of pouch-belts. We confess that we cannot in the least see why this permission should not be granted. We should have thought, indeed, that the war office would have encouraged volunteer corps to assimilate their uniforms as much as possible to those of the regular battalions of their territorial regiments. We are quite aware that many officers of militia, and perhaps, some of volunteers, believe that the prohibition of the sash to the latter is intended as a mark of inferiority. As we have often pointed out it is nothing of the sort. The volunteer infantry were originally all equipped after the fashion of two of the most famous regiments in the British Army, the (then) 60th and the Rifle Brigade. Therefore, the Rifle Volunteers were directed to use the "short manual" of the green soldiers of the regular army, and, like them, to dispense with "Colours" which, it is distinctly said in the original Volunteer Regulation, were "not appropriate to rifle corps." So, also, the officers of "rifle volunteers" wore, like those of the regular rifle corps, pouch-belts instead of sashes, and steel scabbards in lieu of the leathern ones then used by the company officers of scarlet-clad infantry of the line. But now that the equipment of red infantry volunteer officers is nearly the same as that of the corresponding officers of Regulars, we think that the pouch-belt ought to give way to the sash.