

A gun carriage is manufacturing at Woolwich, is designed with a view to its "recoiling under cover" when the gun is fired, by the application of a curved and slightly inclined series of rails forming the quadrant of a circle, behind the emplacement, around which the carriage would sweep backwards and upwards, eventually attaining complete shelter behind the solid parapet of the fort or earthwork. When in this position, it was to be caught and secured. After being reloaded, it would, by its own gravity, descend into position again. The trucks of the carriages are to be constructed with deep flanges, so as to keep the rails while rushing round the curve. The object of this design was to afford perfect cover to the party working the gun, and to the gun and carriage themselves whilst being handled. A modification of this principal has been in course of development for a considerable length of time at the proof butts in the Plumstead Marshes, the *Army and Navy Gazette* states, and it has been found that little or no injury has resulted to the proof carriages, which have been fitted with ordinary railway wheels, so as to recoil up an inclined railway when the guns are fired. The 81-ton gun was fired in this manner from its "hogie" wheeled proof carriage. In point of fact, considerable wear and tear is avoided, as by the old arrangement of a huge wooden carriage recoiling up a steep platform the friction and consequent damage was enormous. The result of any experimental gun carriage intended "to recoil under cover" have not as yet transpired. "It is somewhat singular," it adds, "that a system which was adopted in a modified shape by the Chinese at the Taku Forts should be under consideration by us. It is, of course, only another form of application of the same power—the recoil. The Chinese attached their gun carriages to a cable wound round a revolving post firmly secured in a deep socket. By this means the recoil was checked, and a linked gun carriage was brought up into position. But no attempt was made by the celestial gunner to hide himself or his gun by any mechanical means dependent on the recoil. Hence the most important attribute of the power was lost sight of.

A singular difficulty has arisen at a court-martial in Aldershot Camp, England. An officer of the Twenty first Hussars reported himself ill to the court, but was told by the military surgeon major that he was not sick. The officer applied to three civilian physicians, who each granted a certificate of sickness and inability to attend the court martial. The issue of this medico military conflict is looked forward to with interest.

The material out of which the fabric known as Chinese of Indian grass cloth is manufactured is likely, it is said, either to be substituted for, or used in combination with cotton, flax, hemp, jute, wool, or silk, and to be valuable also in the manufacture of paper. But a more important fact is that this fibre or grass is three times stronger than the best Russian hemp, while it is much lighter, and, in addition to the great strength, it has a remarkable power of resistance to moisture. It is represented as being of as fine texture as flax, and exhibits a glossy lustre resembling silk.

The Russian Government is about to print a fac-simile in photo-lithography of the famous Babylonian codex, now in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, which contains all the latter prophets in the original Hebrew.

CIRCULAR No. 6.

QUEBEC, 31st January, 1876.

With the sanction of the MAJOR-GENERAL COMMANDING, a General Meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association, will be held at

OTTAWA, on the 2nd FEBRUARY, 1876.

The undermentioned have kindly signified their intention of honoring the Association by their patronage.

PATRONS.

- His Excellency, THE EARL OF DUFFERIN, Governor-General, etc. etc.
- His Honor, The Hon. R. E. CARON, Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Quebec.
- His Honor, The Hon. A. G. ARCHIBALD, P. C., Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia.
- His Honor, The Hon. S. L. TILLEY, P. C., C. B., Lieut.-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.
- His Honor, Sir ROBERT HODGSON, Kt., Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Prince Edward Island.
- His Honor, The Hon. J. W. TRUTCH, Lieut.-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.
- The Honorable the Minister of Militia.
- The Honorable, the Deputy-Minister of Militia.

PRESIDENT—

MAJOR-GENERAL SELBY SMYTH, Commanding Canadian Militia.

VICE-PRESIDENT—

COLONEL WALKER POWELL, Adjutant-General.

The following have accepted the undermentioned offices:—

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL—

Lt.-Col. T. BLAND STRANGE, Inspector of Artillery.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF COUNCIL—

- Lt. Col. DE LA C. IRWIN, Inspector of Artillery.
- Lt. Col. DARRELL JAGO, Ass't. Inspector of Artillery.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL—

- Lt.-Col. The Hon. LITTLETON, Grenadier Guards, Mil'y Sec'y to H. E., the Gov't. General.
- Lt.-Col. HEWETT, R. E., Com d't Mil'y College, Staff of Military Districts.
- Lieut.-Colonels Commanding Artillery Corps.
- The Director of Stores.
- Presidents of Rifle Association.
- T. BLAND STRANGE, Lt.-Col., Insp'r of Artillery.

Department of Militia and Defence.

SEALED Tenders will be received by the undersigned up to noon of the 29th day of February next for the manufacture of the following articles, viz:—

- 1,000 Tent Poles,
- 100 Mallets, square, large,
- 1,200 do Tent, small,
- 600 Tent Pins, Marquee, large,
- 1,500 do do medium,
- 75,000 do Tent, small,
- 200 Handspikes, 8 feet,
- 100 do 7 do

The Tent poles are to be of the best Red Pine, Malles of Hickory or Oak. Tent Pins of Hickory, Oak or Hard Maple. Handspikes of Hickory.

Samples of any of the above articles may be seen on application to the Militia Storekeepers at Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal or Quebec, at either of which places delivery must be made after inspection on or before the 1st June next.

"Tenders for Camp Equipment" to be written on the upper left hand corner of the envelope containing the tender.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

THOS. WILLY, Lt.-Col., Director of Stores.

Store Branch, Ottawa, Jan. 28, 1876. 61n4

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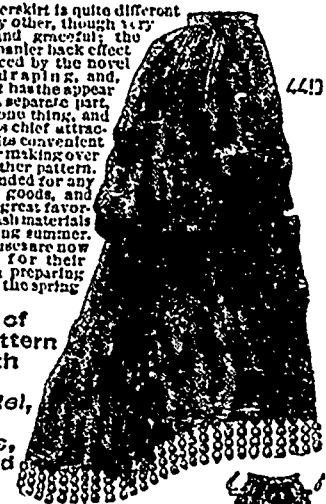
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