

## CONFEDERATION.

The latest news by the cable is to the effect that the bill for confederating British America, has passed the second reading in the House of Commons. In the draft of the bill sent to this country, the name of the new nation is the DOMINION OF CANADA. It is possible that it has been changed to the KINGDOM OF CANADA, since the draft was sent from England.

## INSPECTORS.

On the 25th, 26th, and 27th of February, Lieut.-Col. Jackson, Brigade-Major of No. 1 Division, U. C., inspected three of the Volunteer Companies of this Division—

At Carleton Place—No. 5 Company, 41st Battalion, Captain Brown, paraded 30 officers and men.

At Almonte—No. 1 Company, 42nd Battalion, Captain MacDougall, paraded 37 officers and men.

At Pakenham—No. 6 Company, 41st Battalion, Captain O'Neil, paraded 34 officers and men.

The Brigade-Major expressed himself well pleased with the clean condition of the arms of the several companies, as also with the progress made in drill during the quarter. While regretting that the companies had not yet received their new clothing (the old being quite unserviceable), he assured the men that the Adjutant-General was exceedingly anxious that every company should be properly clothed and equipped, and that so soon as a supply arrived in the country, the officers of the Department would hasten to supply their wants in this respect. In advertising to the comfortable and convenient new drill-sheds at Carleton Place and Almonte, he congratulated the men on their good fortune in residing where the public spiritedness and liberality of the people provided such comfortable quarters for them, and trusted that ere long the whole of the division would be dotted with similar ones.

QUARTERMASTER OF THE 5TH MILITARY DISTRICT, L. C.—We learn with pleasure that there is a probability of Capt. E. A. JOHNSON, 18th Battalion, L'Orignal, being appointed to this post, now vacant. Capt. JOHNSON has been an active and enthusiastic member of the Volunteer force, and has qualified himself for his duties in every way required by the Militia law; and under such circumstances it is but a matter of right that he, as a well qualified Canadian, should be, in common with other Canadians, selected for positions of honor and trust, when vacancies occur, in the Canadian force.

CIVIL SERVICE REGIMENT.—Last week, owing to the hurry of going to press, there was an inaccuracy in the report of the inspection of this corps. We stated the strength on parade was "about 200." It was 250, as the following "field state" will show. Present on Parade—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Adjutant, 2 Staff, 5 Captains, 11

Subalterns, 1 Sergeant-Major, 3 Staff-sergeants, 14 Sergeants, 6 Buglers, 205 rank and file—total, 250. On leave—1 Major, 1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 1 staff-sergeant, 3 sergeants, and 25 rank and file.

It is not improbable that Col. Dawkins may be restored to the Guards in a short time.—[Glowworm.]

LIEUT.-COL. SIR HENRY HAVELOCK, V. C., C. B., has been appointed Assistant Quarter-master-General in Canada, in succession to Col. Wolsley, whose period of service has just expired.

A NUMBER of recruits have lately joined the corps of Royal Engineers, most of whom, it is understood, have been induced to join this distinguished corps by the slackness of work in their respective trades.

THE fine band of the Grand Trunk Railway Battalion, Toronto, under the leadership of Mr. Murdoch, formerly bandmaster of the Queen's Own, played several tunes last evening at the drill shed. They were in full uniform, and marched and played as though they were at the head of the battalion on an inspection day, the "marching past" being done in "quick" and "slow" time.—[Leader, 23rd ult.]

THE NEW PLAN OF SHIP BUILDING.—Mr. Scott Russell informs us ('United Service Gazette,') on the authority of a little bird which has whispered to him, that our future men-of-war are to be a combination of the broadside and the turret. There is to be a sort of box battery, as we understand, in the central portion of the ship, and a turret at each extremity. What possible service this central battery can render which might not be better rendered by a central turret is past our limited comprehension, and we should very much like to know what is to become of the boasted handiness which has been so much talked of with regard to the 'Bellerophon.'

THE army estimates are nearly completed; and we ('Army and Navy Gazette') believe we may assure officers now serving that they are safe from further reductions or disturbance for a year at all events. The changes in numbers will be very trifling, and of a character not to affect the commissioned ranks. A considerable amount of financial reduction has been effected under the head of warlike stores, a result which is rather matter for surprise, considering how much had been already lopped off this item, and also bearing in mind that the armament of the new forts must be provided for before long.

THE proposal of the Recruiting Commission to make the recruiting of the army a distinct department, with an officer of rank at the head of it who would give his exclusive attention to the subject, has been objected to by the Horse Guards. The military authorities, says the 'Army and Navy Gazette,' think the business should continue to be under the Adjt.-General's department. Is it because the Deputy Adjutant-General has not work enough to do, and Whitehall is teaching Pall Mall in economy? We shall

be curious to learn the reason why a proposal in thus condemned which was unanimously recommended by the Commissioners, and indeed we believe by the witnesses examined by them on the subject; but no doubt there are reasons for the objections which we do not know.

THE SNIDER ENFIELD.—The breech-action of this gun is not adapted to withstand even a very slight escape; and any failure on the part of the cartridge tends to throw the breech violently open, and to cause a dangerous backward explosion. The first cartridges adopted for the arm had the original Potter base, a thin cup of brass, into which the body of the cartridge was wedged. When these bases were made absolutely perfect, as in those cartridges with which the first experiments were made, the security against explosion was all that need be desired; but the slightest crack or flaw in the brass, by weakening the base, rendered it less capable of sustaining the severe strain thrown upon it at the moment of firing. When the cartridges had to be made by millions, perfect and invariable freedom from flaws could not be guaranteed; and it was found necessary to adopt a stronger base, and so to provide a larger margin for imperfections of manufacture. The cartridges of this second pattern have proved thoroughly satisfactory, and we understand that no failure or tendency to explosion has been noticed in the large numbers which have been made during the past two months.—[Pall Mall Gazette.]

AN INFERNAL MACHINE FOR WAR.—Gen. Daule, of the French Engineers, has written to 'La Liberte' an account of a cannon with divergent tubes to throw musket balls. The number of these tubes will be in proportion to their calibre, and they are so arranged that at a distance of 600 metres the ball will be spread over a space of 15 metres, and at nearly equal distances from each other. The charge of powder is calculated to propel two balls at once from each tube; the trajectory of which will be the same as that of a large projectile from the same cannon. Thus a field-piece will be capable of holding 16 tubes and discharging 32 balls at once, which at a distance of 600 metres will strike upon a space occupied by 50 men in two ranks, those of the second rank being liable to be struck by the balls which have passed through the first. This new cannon is of iron, this being a more durable metal for the purpose than bronze.

## MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

## HEAD-QUARTERS,

Ottawa, March 1, 1867.

## GENERAL ORDERS.

## VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

## No. 1.

Wm. Manton, Gentleman, is appointed Provincial Storekeeper at Kingston.

26th Middlesex Battalion of Infantry, No. 2 Company, Komoka—

The Head-quarters of this Company are hereby changed to "Lobo."

30th Wellington Battalion of Infantry—The rank of Captain granted to Paymaster M. O. Macgregor, appointed by the General Order No. 3, of the 22nd ult., is Honorary.