

FORTIFYING THE BORDER.

Under the above heading the *St. John Telegraph* says: There is some reason for the belief that, if Mr. Harrison had been elected to a second presidential term, the desperate gang of political gamblers with whom he had surrounded himself, would have sought to bring on a war with Great Britain for the purpose of covering their own misdeeds and obtaining a new lease of power. While in control of the Government of the United States they obtained an act of congress authorising the establishment of a military post at Essex Junction in Vermont, within a few miles of the Canadian border. This post is to be named Fort Ethan Allen, and its purpose, according to the *New York Sun*, is to form a rallying point on the eastern side of Lake Champlain, for regulars and volunteers, in the event of a war with Canada. This object was indeed disclosed with sufficient plainness in the report of U. S. Secretary of War Proctor, and in a letter written by General Schofield to Secretary Elkins. General Schofield, in a letter to Proctor, stated that certain points on the northern frontier of the United States must be made the nucleus of troops of all arms—infantry, cavalry and artillery, where the forces from the adjoining states might immediately unite to take the initiative to prevent the people of Canada from using their waterways to move gunboats into the lakes. In his letter to Secretary Elkins, General Schofield says:

"I have the honour to report that the well-considered military policy of the United States, in view of the possible contingency of war with Great Britain, includes prompt and energetic aggressive action toward certain important strategic points in the Dominion of Canada. To be prepared for such action, it is of vital importance that permanent military posts be maintained at convenient points near the northern frontier, at each of which may be stationed the nucleus of an army, to be composed mainly, in the event of war, of the state troops quickly assembled from the neighbouring states. The place named in this bill, on the line of railway between Burlington and Highgate, is perfectly well adapted to the purpose had in view, and I think it would be manifestly wise to commence at this time, as far as therein contemplated, the preparations for the establishment of such a post."

All this is candid enough, and the people of Canada are not so dull of comprehension as not to understand the significance of such declarations. On the whole Canadian border from St. Croix to the Pacific there is not one fortified post held by Canada, and yet our neighbours, who ought to be our friends, are fortifying their border against us and constructing posts for the purpose of facilitating an invasion of Canada. Fortunately for the peace of the two countries Mr. Harrison has been retired to private life, leaving behind him the reputation of being the smallest man, in mental calibre, who has sat in the presidential chair for 50 years. We are convinced that his hostile views were not shared by the majority of the American people, who are disposed to keep the peace and pick quarrels with their neighbours. The peaceful character of the American people is sufficiently shown by the smallness of their army, which only numbers 25,000, all told. As for the value of Fort Ethan Allen as a rallying point, it need only be observed that there is not much force in the vicinity for it to rally. There is not a cavalry or infantry regular soldier in all New England and only a small number of artillerymen. The Vermont militia who would rally at the new fort number only 636 men, while New Hampshire has but 895, and Maine 906 militia. Even the great state of New York has only 12,337 militia men, and Massachusetts 4,948. These are not formidable figures, and if the quality of the militia of the several states is not much better than it was in 1812, the whole militia force of New York and the New England States, even if rallied at Fort Ethan Allen, would not be much of a menace to Canada.

THE BISLEY TEAM, 1893.

The team is now complete and will be composed of the following:—Major W. Bishop, 63rd; Col.-Sergt. Henderson, 62nd; Lieut. A. D. Cartwright, 47th; Lieut. T. Mitchell, 12th; Lieut. M. Pope, 3rd Vics.; Corp. J. Ellis, G.G.F.G.; Staff-Sergt. Crowe, 1st Brigade Field Artillery; Pte. Bartlett, 57th; Staff-Sergt. J. H. Simpson, 12th; Staff-Sergt. Rolston, 20th; Pte. W. Langstroth, 62d; Pte. Heaven, 20th; Staff-

Sergt. Green, 21st; Sergt. Drysdale, M.G.A.; Pte. R. Tink, G.G.F.G.; Sergt. Mumford, 63rd; Sergt. Short, G.G.F.G.; Sergt. Bent, 93rd; Lieut. Limpert, 29th; T. C. Boville, 43rd. The team, of which Lt.-Col. Fred Denison, M.P., G.G.B.G., will be Commandant, and Major Hartt, 62nd Fusiliers, will be Adjutant, will sail from Montreal on the *Sarnia* on the 24th of June.

SENATOR McINNES' WIND GAUGE.

The device which Senator McInnes has patented, for adjusting the windage allowance, is in some respects a decided improvement on the various means heretofore used with the same end in view. It is a common thing for the wind to blow sufficiently strong to carry a Martini bullet five or six feet to the right or left of the spot aimed at from a distance of five or six hundred yards, and many plans have been tried for making allowance for the wind. To align the sights upon an object the proper distance to the right or left cannot be done without much difficulty; and it is admitted, too, that the most successful plan in target shooting is invariably to align the sights immediately under the bull's-eye, and to enable this to be done the windage is gauged by aligning the foresight over a point to the right or left of the centre notch on the bar of the backsight. On many sporting rifles the whole bar is movable, by means of a thumbscrew arrangement, but this is not allowed on the British military rifles, whose sights require to be fixed in this respect. Senator McInnes' device, however, is one which can be attached to the ordinary Martini without interfering with the regulation sight, and consists of a small V sight moving from side to side by the turn of a thumbscrew, the bar itself remaining stationary. It can be so arranged as to be used or not at will, and though not easily broken, if an accident does happen to it the original sight is not impaired.

AN ANNEXATIONIST FROM TORONTO.

Mr. Alex. Downey, of Toronto, formerly a staff-sergeant in the Royal Grenadiers, was in New York a few days ago, when he was approached by an American, who "guessed" Mr. Downey was a Canadian. When answered in the affirmative, the Yankee remarked that "you Canucks" were hot on annexation. Mr. Downey wanted to know if that was so, and was informed that the American gentleman had met "the mayor of Toronto" a few days previously, and that official had informed him that the whole people of Canada were anxious to be taken into the American union. Mr. Downey asked for a description of "the mayor," and was told that he was a big man with a red nose and a limp in his speech, who gave the name of "Macdonald." After further conversation Mr. Downey informed the enquirer that Torontonians anyhow were quite in favor of annexation, because a few years ago they had annexed Yorkville, East Toronto and Parkdale. They were now dickering for Hamilton, and when that deal was completed they would take into consideration the application of the United States.—*Empire*.

THE ENORMOUS RESERVES OF RUSSIA.

The *Revue du Cercle Militaire* has an article entitled "The Readiness for War of the Russian Army," as estimated by a German. He says of the active army that "its state of preparation for war is much superior to that of any other European army," and adds that same the remark applies to the reserve. It is stated that Russia could put in the field 648 battalions of infantry reserves, and 112 batteries; 300 sotnias of the second ban could be mobilised in two or three weeks, and, as the Cossacks are in habitual possession of their complete military turn-out, "the second and third bans supply a reservesuch as no European Power is possessed of." This writer asserts that "Russia has been able to create, during the time of peace, by the side of its active army, an army of reserve which does not differ from the former except in that it requires a few more men to make it complete on a war footing."