

men, and fifteen as submarine miners. The charge for maintaining that force—£7,000 a year—would be borne by the Dominion Government. The whole force would be under the command of a field officer. The officers would be capable of training the men of the local force in artillery and submarine drill. A despatch to that effect was sent out on May 2nd last. The Admiralty had already selected the officers and men for that purpose, and they could, if required, be sent away at two or three days' notice with the exception of the submarine miners. The reason of that exception was that the military and naval submarine drill were different, and it was thought desirable to have the men trained in the military drill, as otherwise there would be two different systems and sets of stores in the colony, which would be sure to lead to confusion. Application as to the training of those men had been made to the War Office.

With regard to the second part of the question, which asked whether the works had been commenced, and when they would be completed, Lord Elphinstone said that was a question rather for the War Office than the Admiralty, but he apprehended that they were both very much in the same position, which was that neither could take any step forward until the Canadian Government had replied to the despatch of May 2nd. He had been authorized to say that part of the important armament that was to have gone to Esquimalt had been sent elsewhere. The quick-firing guns were in the manufacturer's hands, and the machine guns were being re-bored. There was no doubt that the armament would be ready as soon as the fortifications were fit to receive them. The government did not feel justified in keeping guns in England awaiting the completion of fortifications which were only in contemplation, while there were other important fortifications and ships ready to receive guns.

### A Champion Shot.

In last issue, and continued in this, there appears an exceedingly interesting paper on rifle shooting, from the pen of Lieut. J. M. T. Partello, champion shot of the U. S. Army, or "champion army rifle shot of the world," as the U. S. newspapers modestly announce him. The story of his career is thus told in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*:

"The distinction of being the champion army rifle shot of the world belongs to Lieut. J. M. T. Partello, of the Fifth Infantry, United States Army. Lieut. Partello is an Ohio man, having been born at the Capital of the State, March 4, 1854, but his parents removed to Washington two years later. He attended school there, and at eighteen was appointed a Clerk in the War Department. When the American Rifle Team went abroad in 1874 and gained their victory over the Irish team at Dollymount, he conceived the idea that he could shoot a rifle and broached the subject to his father, but he discouraged him in every way, and urged his son to devote his attention to the study of law. The young man complied and graduated at the Columbian Law University. But the idea of becoming a rifleman could not be extinguished, and in 1878, his father having died, young Partello resolved to at least make the trial. He first bought a small rifle, and, after a little practice, found that he was quite right in thinking that he had a "knack" for shooting. Col. Burnside, President of the Columbia Rifle Association of Washington, advised him to become a member of that association, and enter the lists as a candidate for membership of the team that was to represent Washington at Creedmoor in the fall of 1878. He did so, came out number one in thirteen straight competitions for membership, and went to Creedmoor and won a number of matches there. In October, 1878, he made at Washington the best record for long-range shooting in the world, scoring 224 points out of a possible 225 at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards, the weapon used being a Remington long-range rifle. About this time the officers of the army began to awaken to the importance of the soldiers learning to use their arms, and President Hayes commissioned Mr. Partello an officer of the army, in recognition of his excellent record as a marksman. His duties since then have always been to instruct the line in the use of their arms. Last August Lieut. Partello entered the contest for the Department of Dakota prize, and won it, General Terry presenting the gold medal and announcing that the young lieutenant stood at the head of the 4,500 officers and men in that department. From this contest he was ordered to Fort Leavenworth in September following, to compete for the great Division of the Missouri medal, which he won after a hard contest over the pick of the 1,800 troops in that military division. This was the 17th prize which he had received for rifle marksmanship.

"Lieut. Partello ascribes his success to the fact that on entering the service he dropped the sporting rifles and devoted his attention to the military service rifle, until now he understands it better than anybody else. His whole duty in the army is as instructor of musketry, and he has charge of the rifle ranges, etc., at Fort Keogh, Montana, the largest post in the army. Lieut. Partello has won his own way, and his success is in every way creditable to him."

### Dominion Artillery Association.

The following circular has just been issued by Capt. J. B. Donaldson, Secretary of this association:—

1. ANNUAL GUN PRACTICE.—The following additions will be made to the rules for practice:—

"On land ranges, when the circumstances of the case will permit, or when two or more batteries are practising together, telephones may be used for signalling purposes.

When the signalling is by flags, as already described, and if considered necessary by the umpire, a white flag may be hoisted at the battery when sharpnel shell are to be fired; if any doubt should arise as to the signalled value of a blind shapnel, a white flag is to be hoisted at the battery, and a repetition of the previous signal called for.

Batteries unable to send detachments to the general competitive meetings at Kingston and Quebec, and which perform their annual gun practice elsewhere, will be unable to count their scores for aggregate or individual prizes, or for the efficiency competition, unless such scores are certified to by an umpire and range officer, unconnected with the battery, and appointed by the inspector or assistant-inspector of artillery.

2. GENERAL EFFICIENCY COMPETITION.—In order to more nearly equalize the credits awarded for theoretical and practical subjects in garrison batteries, the values of answers to questions will be reduced from 30 and 48 to 24 and 36 respectively.

A reduction of one point from the general total gained by any battery, will be made for each N. C. officer or gunner below the establishment authorized for drill, whose absence at inspection is not satisfactorily accounted for under exceptional conditions.

The percentage of the highest possible score made by each field battery, will in future be counted for general efficiency, instead of one-fifth the score made.

### The Queen's Birthday Celebrations.

In celebration of Her Majesty's birthday, the capital of the Pacific province had a grand two day's celebration. On the second day, Saturday 25th, there was a military pageant not second save in numbers participating to any of those in Eastern Canada chronicled last week. The following account is from the *Victoria Daily Colonist*:

At fifteen minutes to twelve the steam launches belonging to the Swiftsure, Icarus, and Amphion left Esquimalt with fifteen boats and scows in tow. These contained the whole of the attacking party, 600 strong, who were brought round to the wood on the west side of Beacon Hill, and landed there. At one o'clock Capt. Hammet, who was acting as Brigadier, summoned his officers together, immediately on landing, and ordered them to carry out the plan of attack.

Lieut. Warrender, of H. M. S. Amphion, led the Battery. The leader of the right half battery was Lieut. Hammond, of the Amphion, and Lieut. Courage, of the Icarus, led the left. There were six companies of bluejackets, with a complement of 44 men to each company, and they were commanded as follows:

No. 1 Co.—Lieut. Armstrong, Swiftsure.

No. 2 Co.—Lieut. Stapleton, Swiftsure.

No. 3 Co.—Lieut. Ross, Swiftsure.

No. 4 Co.—Lieut. Story, Amphion.

No. 5 Co.—Lieut. Chads, Amphion.

No. 6 Co.—Lieut. Hay, Icarus.

The divisional leaders of the battery were: Gunners Mahoney, McCarty, Eggby and Talbot. The battery consisted of one 5-barrelled Nordenfeldt of the latest pattern, two 9-lb guns, three 7-lb guns and three Gardner guns.

When Capt. Hammet had placed all his men into position ready for the attack on the hill, they were in this order: On the extreme right and sheltered by a friendly hollow, was a division of the battery holding a 7-lb. gun and a Gardner. Next to them were two detachments of marines hustled up in the woods in close order waiting for the word to open fire. On their left were three fighting columns of bluejackets, armed with Martinis. These were ordered not to advance on the general order being given, but to await further commands. This body was flanked at each end by a Gardner gun. At the extreme left was the commander, with his staff in the rear of the left half battery, consisting of two 9-lb. guns and a 7-pounder.

Right on the crest of Beacon Hill, and overlooking the woods in which the enemy were concealed, Major Peters had marshalled his main body, which consisted of the volunteers under Col. Prior and his own "C" battery under the immediate command of Capt. Benson and Lieuts. Ogilvie and Gaudet. The right half division was under the command of Capt. Benson, assisted by Lieut. Gaudet, while Lieut. Ogilvie was in command of the left division. At a quarter to two the Major dispatched a skirmishing party of twenty-four men on the slope