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**The French in Africa.**

It is almost unnecessary to say that the operations of the French army in Dahomey are watched by many here with a great deal of interest and their success welcomed as an additional step gained in the civilization of the dark continent. The utter disregard of human life, the callousness to human suffering, the cruel treatment of the weak and sickly by the strong which exist among the benighted inhabitants of the interior of Africa, is being rapidly exposed to the civilized world by just such enterprises as that of Colonel Dodds' army. Every mile gained in its advance and every native town captured from the cruel and brutal Dahomeyans, is a point gained for humanity. The operations seem to have been conducted with vigor and intrepidity by the French, who are dealing with an enemy little less brave and regardless of death than the fanatical Arabs, who fought our people so fiercely seven years ago. The night rush of the blacks on the French camp on the 19th of September, must have been most trying to the steadiness and discipline of the men and the slightest hesitation or sign of fear on the part of any of the little detachment first engaged, might have been the signal for a general massacre and the ultimate triumph of the Dahomeyans. This was fortunately averted and now the success of the expedition and the wiping out of the monstrous government of the African king seemed assured. It would be a singular triumph for the civilization of the age, and an incalculable boon to suffering humanity, if Britain, France and Germany would unite forces by sea and land for a crusade on modern principles against all the slave states of Africa, and a thorough subjugation of the cruel and bloody petty rulers that still exist there, even if the entire wiping out of these brutal states from the face of the continent were the result.

**Field Days and Feet.**

It was most unfortunate that bad weather necessitated the postponement of the Thanksgiving Day parade in Toronto, an event which promised to be most useful to the regiments concerned in giving them a taste of practical field manoeuvres worth a month of routine parades. The elements seem to conspire against that sort of thing this year, *vide* the postponement of the much-needed sham-fight near Montreal in

May, and the serious curtailment of the practical work intended at several of the camps of instruction in June. Under the circumstances, Col. Otter's action in cancelling last Thursday's turn out was a thoroughly wise one; in no infantry regiment in the Canadian service are the men shod sufficiently well to stand a parade in slush or water. While the strong and watertight boots used in England are for some reason practically unobtainable here, and while no effort is made by the powers that be to put before the men a proper waterproof service boot, many commanding officers retain the English prejudice against the use of rubbers on parade, and "go for" the man who wishes to attend drill in wet weather and at the same time avoid chances of illness. No man can go through a fatiguing field day properly with wet feet, while the risk of his taking a serious cold is imminent. The sooner some attention is directed to the matter of the foot-wear of our men, the better for the force in general, and in the meantime the unnecessary prejudice against the use of rubbers in wet weather should vanish. As it is now many men often fail to attend parades in spring and fall for this reason.

**The Patriots of '37.**

It is a good sign of the interest existing throughout the Dominion in military matters, to see the strong efforts made to obtain some practical recognition for the services of the surviving veterans of '37 and '38. A mercenary reward—which may at first sight seem to be at the bottom of the movement—has little to do with it; nine-tenths of the men who have signed the petitions are in comfortable circumstances, and the paltry sum that might be granted (if the 1812 pensions are any criterion) would do little more than keep a man in tobacco; but the principle of recognizing the services of those who did so much towards saving Canada to the British Crown 55 years ago, and crushed out rebellion and anarchy, *vi et armis*, are undoubtedly deserving of recognition by the British Government, if the Canadian exchequer (generally so impoverished when militia grants are required) is unable to allot the necessary rewards. We are glad to see that the efforts of late have been more systematic, and, largely through the energy of Mr. Merrill, of Belleville, are rapidly taking such shape that definite attention must soon be given the matter by the authorities. It has been rather singular that while all this agitation has been going on in Ontario, little or nothing toward the same end has been done by the survivors of the loyal volunteers who now reside in the Province of Quebec; we learn, however, that within the last few days Mr. Alexander Daly, who served in the Rawdon corps during the troubles, is exerting himself to have the necessary petitions signed; and we sincerely trust that the matter will be brought before a great number, if not all, the surviving veterans in that province, with a view to obtaining their signatures, and thus adding additional weight to a just and meritorious demand on the Crown.

The total number of competitors in the annual matches of the Dominion Rifle Association in Sept. was 405. The (Toronto) military district No. 2 sent the highest number, viz., 96. From district No. 1 there were 35, district No. 3, 34; No. 4, 75; No. 5, 55; No. 6, 1; No. 7, 13; No. 8, 39; No. 9, 38; No. 10, 17, and No. 11, 2.

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Emperor William refuses permission to the German regular military to go to the Chicago World's Fair, but he will permit retired bandsmen, in sufficient numbers to form two bands of fifty each, to go to Chicago. They are to wear the uniform of the Third Grenadier Guards and Red Hussars.