

the giving additional bounties to in-pensioners. The country, it is thought, will not agree with the Treasury, that on the assumption that if the endowments of the hospital had been sufficient to provide the inmates with pocket money, the provision for the pay of in-pensioners now inserted in the Army Vote would not have been made; that some reduction should be made in the latter, and the in-pensioners deprived of part of the benefit the Chelsea Hospital Commissioners have by their efforts been able to confer on them.

The Navy Estimates for 1894-95 amount to a net total of £17,366,100, or £3,126,000 more than the sum voted for 1893-94. This large increase is due chiefly to ship-building, armaments, manning, victualling, new works, and Royal Naval Reserves.

In 1893-94 the net estimate of the numbers of officers, seamen, boys, Coastguard, and Royal Marines was 76,700. A force of 83,400 is proposed for 1894-95, being an increase of 6,700. Part of this increase (about 1,600) is automatic, and arises as the boys from the training ships (3,700 of whom are entered annually) are drafted into the Service. It is proposed to enter 800 seamen direct from the mercantile marine and other sources in order to meet present wants. It is proposed to add 350 engine-room artificers to the Fleet. The increase desired in the number of stokers amounts to 2,450. It is proposed to repeat the increase of 500 made last year in the Royal Marines, which will bring up the total to 15,500. The new torpedo-boat destroyers now being built will also involve a considerable increase, particularly in the engine-room rating.

The War Office has purchased a stretch of land three miles in length on the seashore, extending from Lydd to Dungeness Point, for the purpose of carrying out important experiments with machine guns and smokeless powder for heavy artillery. New ranges have been constructed at Holmatone Camp, and a number of new "revetments" for cannon have been placed on the seashore, and the camp, which has hitherto been used during the summer only, will be made a permanent military station, extensive barrack accommodation having been made for troops in the winter.

Major H. H. Prior would seem just to have got his command of the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment, Royal Canadians, in time, for he became liable to retirement for age on the day following the announcement of his promotion in the *London Gazette*. There are reasons why Lieutenant-Colonel Prior should consider himself lucky in getting his command at all. As it was it took the military authorities some three months to fill the vacancy which was created by the lapse of Lieutenant-Colonel G. Poignand's term of command on December 3 last.

Lieutenant-General J. W. Laurie, late 4th King's Own, will, we understand, contest the Pembroke Burghs at the next general election. He was formerly member of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia. He served in the Crimean campaign, and came out with two wounds and a mention in despatches. He was staff officer of a field force during the latter period of the Indian mutiny. Major Laurie was one of the officers sent to Canada on special service in 1861. The Canadian war medal came to him for service in the North-West territories. As Red Cross Commissioner with the Servain Army, he went through the Bulgarian campaign of 1885-86. He

is brother of Colonel Julius Dyson-Laurie, late 34th Regiment, and is Master Saddlers' Company.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

The discussion regarding the merits and disadvantages attendant on sponsons, which had of late greatly subsided, is being renewed with increased vigor as a result of the naval and dockyard officials at the several home ports having received directions from the Admiralty to fit sponsons in ships of the *Astræa* class for the two foremost and two aft 4.7-inch quick-firing guns. The re-introduction of the sponson system, which, it is noted, is to be adopted even for vessels of that class which are already completed, is believed to be due to the report of a special committee.

The opponents to the system point out that not only do sponsons cause vessels to roll considerably, but the large quantities of water consequently shipped cannot get clear of the decks owing to the wells formed by the sponsons. On the other hand, the example of France and other countries is pointed to, and the advantage insisted upon of the two foremost broadside guns being able to fire right ahead, and the two aft broadside guns right astern, instead of their fire being limited, as at present to 60 degrees before and aft the beam.

A telegram from Victoria, British Columbia, states that "the contracts for land transport in connection with the fortifications at Esquimalt have been awarded. The defences will consist of a number of Moncrieff pits, from which the guns will be brought up into firing position by means of elevators, the guns disappearing again into the pits after each discharge."

### The Royal Canadians.

The following interesting paragraphs were published and circulated for the information of all ranks in the 1st Battalion Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians 100th), while stationed in Fort William, Calcutta, India, 1887-88:

"A copy of a report of a committee of the Honorable the Privy Council of Canada, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Canada, on the 27th of February, 1888, is published for information. On a report, dated 28th February, 1888, from the Minister of Militia and Defence, stating with reference to the 19th July, 1887, upon the subject of the offer to the Dominion of Canada of the original colors of the 1st Battalion, Leinster Regiment (the Prince of Wales' Royal Canadians), as mentioned in the despatch, dated 30th April, 1887, from the Right Honorable, the Secretary of State for the colonies, that he has received from the officer commanding the 1st Battalion of the regiment through the High Commissioner and the Secretary of State for Canada, the original colors of that regiment. The minister observes that Lieut.-Colonel Colium who was deputed on behalf of the Lieut.-Colonel commanding, the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the corps, to present the colors to the Canadian Government, has accompanied them with a very courteous letter, expressing the most cordial sentiments on the part of the regiment towards the country of its origin, and a desire that the ties of its connection may be bound closer by some practical means.

"The minister recommends that a copy of this letter be published in general orders, for the information, more especially of the militia force of the Dominion,

"The committee advise that your Excellency be moved to carry the cordial thanks of the Canadian Government, through the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the colonies, and the proper military channel, to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment (the Prince of Wales' Royal Canadians), together with the intimation that the Library of Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, at Ottawa, has been settled as the final resting place of these colors, which form such an interesting link in historical connection between Her Majesty's army and this portion of her empire.

"The committee further advise that the High Commissioner for Canada be informed of the action taken by the Canadian Government in answer to his despatch of the 12th September last, with reference to the subject under consideration.

"All of which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

"(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,  
"Clerk Privy Council."

### Tactics in Matabele Land. Luck or Skill?

(By Colonel F. Maurice, C.B., in the *United Service Magazine*.)

From many sources we have now received information which enables us to judge of the character of the operations which were conducted by the South African Company's forces against the Matabele. In particular, the graphic account by Sir Gerald Portal, published in the *Times*, gives most of the necessary details. They seem to be well worthy of study as a practical lesson in the conduct of such undertakings. The question in the first instance is whether the success which attended them was accidental and due to good luck alone, or whether there were sound reasons of good sense and right judgment, which determined the course pursued by the invaders, and whether it may be possible to apply in the future some of the experiences which the campaign has supplied.

When the first brief reports came to England of the movements of the columns, it appeared as if three separate bodies without any connection with one another had advanced towards the capital, Bulawayo. Not a few well-informed soldiers in England, and doubtless on the Continent also, were disposed to laugh at a method of warfare which appeared to violate every known principle of success. It is hardly too much to say that not soldiers only, but almost every well-informed Englishman is aware that the principle of which Napoleon continually availed himself in warfare was to take advantage of such a separation of his enemies, to concentrate his forces against one body, and having overwhelmed it, to turn with his still superior strength against each of the others in succession. Nor has experience failed to show us that in general terms the principle, thus exhibited on a large scale by Napoleon and many other soldiers, is true, also in cases where smaller bodies of troops are engaged. The inference was therefore not unnaturally drawn by many critics that the only cause of success of the colonial troops was the fact that their enemy did not understand the advantages of his position, and that the expedition would have failed if the whole Matabele army had been thrown upon one of the isolated