

## GLEANINGS.

Surg.-Major Colin, of the French Army, gives statistics to show that india-rubber heels to military boots would deaden the shock to the system, prevent footsore and increase the marching form of the men.

Col. King-Harman, of the 4th Ghoorka Regt., warns his countrymen that the fighting efficiency of the native army is increasing relatively to that of the British Army under the system of short service, and that avarice exceeds patriotism in the hearts of all Asiatics.

Every day brings fresh intelligence of war-like preparations on the part of Russia. The latest measure is the transformation of a number of *cadre* battalions of the reserve infantry, garrisoned near the Austrian frontier, into as many regiments, by the simple process of doubling their number.

Mr. J. Forster Brown, M. Inst., C. E., and president of the mechanical section of the British Association, in a paper on "Our Coal Resources," read before the economic section, draws the deduction that in about 50 years Great Britain will have so far used up her fuel stores that her manufactures will be crippled, and her prosperity will begin to disappear.

At the close of the French manoeuvres, President Carnot reviewed the troops—about 110,000—and afterwards delivered an oration, in which he said: "The Army has again shown what France may expect from it, and the whole country, which has followed the army's movements with passionate interest through the whole of its trial, is grateful. From the plain soldier, valiant and alert, to the leader of the highest rank, who executes marvels of science, toil and skill, all inspire us with confidence."

General Viscount Wolseley, in a recent article, gives this sensible advice: "If I might venture to advise our young officers I would beg of them not to rest contented with simple knowledge. A man may be crammed with all that has ever been written on war, and yet be quite useless as an officer unless deep thought is brought to bear upon that stored-up knowledge."

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says: "It seems that, after all, Great Britain is to be the first country in the world which will possess a dynamite 'torpedo-thrower' actually mounted in one of its fortresses, for we learn that the celebrated Victorian gun is to be brought from Shoeburyness and erected at Dale Point, in Milford Haven. The entrance to the Haven is just two miles in width, and the pneumatic torpedo-thrower has an easy range of 4,000 yards, at which it can throw a series of 500-pound projectiles into rectangles a little larger than an ordinary billiard table." It gives details to show that this claim for accuracy is not exaggerated, and says further: "The extreme range of this weapon was not, however, reached on either of the occasions alluded to above. It is believed that, with an elevation of 40 degrees and a sub-calibre shell of 300 lbs., from three to four miles would be easily attainable; but the accuracy at such a distance would not, of course, be so striking. With the full-sized shell to hold 600 lbs. of dynamite, the torpedo-thrower would still possess an available range over the full width of the entrance to Milford Haven, and it is assumed that this quantity of so violent an explosive, if detonated within 100 feet of a vessel's sides or bottom, would inevitably occasion its destruction. There is a deeply-rooted prejudice against the pneumatic gun in the minds of those belonging to the department of the Director of Artillery at Pall Mall, which was only partially removed by the extraordinary results obtained during practice with it at Shoeburyness. It is a matter for regret that the original projectors of this singular weapon should have gone out of their way in their endeavor to force it upon the United States Navy. It never was suitable for the armament of vessels, and never can be made so. Its vocation is clearly to dominate the

waters of a well-known channel or anchorage, where every position is mapped out and the exact bearings of passing vessels can be ascertained to a nicety."

General Viscount Wolseley, is summing up a contribution to the New York *Herald*, on Von Moltke, says: "He is said never to have made a personal enemy. If this be true, it is indeed most extraordinary, considering the number of fools and small minded men in and out of office a General in his position has to deal with. \* \* \* Abroad he was known as the greatest strategist, the ablest soldier of his epoch. At home, revered wherever the German tongue is spoken, he is still known as the great chief of the staff to the Prussian monarch. Had he served any other nation his epitaph would have described him as the conqueror of Denmark, of Austria and of France. But in his own country he will be simply remembered forever, and he was content to be so remembered, with deep feelings of pride and affection, as the loyal patriot, the great soldier and the faithful servant of his king. What fame could the good man wish for more?"

General Viscount Wolseley, in one of his contributions to the *United Service Magazine* on Field Marshal Von Moltke, refers to the German Army being badly off for a leader in 1841, and makes this remarkable statement which will be new to most of his readers: "Monsieur Thiers, who was the Prime Minister in France, seemed determined to force on a European war in what he conceived to be the interests of his country. In England and in Germany this war was believed to be imminent, and the King of Prussia was most anxious to be prepared for it. All his old generals of repute were dead, but a great leader was of the first necessity. He consequently turned to England and formally asked the Duke of Wellington, then in the 72nd year of his age, to accept the command of the German Army in the event of a war with France. This startling fact is beyond all doubt, and a copy of the Duke's answer, addressed to our Minister in Berlin, Lord William Russell, is now before me."

Returns have been published of the number of men incorporated in the French and German Armies and Navies. Taking the German first, the number of men accepted for service was 182,836, and while there were 12,666 volunteer engagements, 5,916 men could not be incorporated because they were in excess of the effective provided for in the Budget. Thus, the general total of incorporations was 195,502, of whom 4,121 were for the naval forces, while 19,472 men were "condemned" for having emigrated without having first done their military service. The number of men incorporated in the French forces was 204,000, of whom 193,000 were drafted into the Army, 60,000 of these being engaged for one year's active service, and being then passed into the Reserve.

The soldiers of the 11th German Army Corps have gained distinction by a recently claimed march at the rate of four miles an hour maintained for eight and a half hours, each carrying fifty German pounds weight of accoutrements. It is well known that the marching powers of the German Infantry are very considerable. Their boots are half-Wellingtons, with plenty of nails in the soles, quite straight in the tread, and very square toes with rather broad welts; and—like the English Cavalry boot for unmounted service—having a certain amount of heel, the boot has to be considerably longer than the foot, whereas British Infantry are apt to wear their boots too short.

### Snider Rifles for Sale.

The advertiser has for sale, at a bargain, two Long Snider Rifles in excellent condition. They have only been in use a short time and are almost as good as new. Reasons for selling furnished upon application. Correspondence solicited.

Box 4, Militia Gazette Office.

RIFLEMAN.