

to assure himself that everything was in working order. That shot burst the gun, killing a number of the people about. How ever, since that time, many have stood the test, and have been accepted.

In order to economize the time of workmen when not employed on the guns, and also to put to use the large amount of scrap-steel, car wheels and axles are manufactured on quite an extensive scale. The wheels are not made solid as with us, but in this manner: The scrap is worked up in reverberatory furnaces, cast in ingots, and the ingots drawn out into bars about 2½ inches wide by ¾ inch thick. These having been cut to the proper length, are bent into a triangular shape, the two ends being separated somewhat at the vertex, and the base curved. A number of these triangles are then laid together with the open vertices toward the centre. The two adjacent sides of contiguous triangles being welded together form the spokes, the free ends being let into the hub, and a heavy flanged tire is then shrunk on about the curved bases.

Having occupied several hours in examining the different shops, we returned to the office and took leave of the polite commandant, much impressed with the extent of the works, and also with the kindness and courtesy that we had experienced, and which is certainly shown everywhere in Russia to an American officer.

### The Fighting in Abyssinia.

An Alexandria correspondent, who believes he is in possession of the main facts, gives the following account of the dispute between Egypt and Abyssinia, and of the fighting which up to the present has been so disastrous for the latter country: "The dispute about the frontier line between Abyssinia and Egypt had already caused fighting on a small scale, and the Khedive, in order to end the matter, sent some two months ago what he considered a force sufficiently strong to protect his rights and bring Abyssinia to reason. An army of 2,000 men, armed with the Remington rifle, and commanded by Colonel Arendroop, a Danish officer in the Egyptian service, much esteemed for his military capacity, was landed at Massowah, at the entrance of the Red Sea, and ordered to march into the interior. Rakel Bey, the governor of Massowah, and Nephew of Nubar Pasha, commanded the rearguard, Colonel Arendroop, the leader of the expedition having charge of the main body; while Count Zichy, an Austrian officer, the nephew of the Austrian ambassador at Constantinople, who accompanied the expedition as a volunteer, led the van. They reached Gundet, ten days' march from Massowah, without difficulty, and there they received orders to march on Asawa, in the interior of Abyssinia. On the way they encountered the whole Abyssinian army, stated to consist of 30,000 men, armed, many of them with the Snider rifle, and led by King John in person, who was accompanied by his English General Kirkham, an English non-commissioned officer who fought under Gordon in China, and subsequently, having come to Abyssinia with the English, remained behind after the taking of Magdala. The Egyptian vanguard was first attacked. Colonel Arendroop pushed forward with two companions to their assistance, but he could not make head against the superior numbers, and fell back, followed by the enemy. The fighting was severe, and when with difficulty he reached his main body he had only five men

left. The case was now desperate. Rakel Bey, in the rear, was attacked, and fell fighting bravely at the head of his men. But Arendroop, with the remainder, had no thought of surrender. He formed in square, and, though there could be only one result, the Egyptians held their own as long as their ammunition lasted. The enemy was well armed, and the carnage was great. Poor Arendroop fell shot dead in the breast. Even the loss of their gallant leader did not shake the Egyptian troops. They still stood firm, and at last, when the cartridges were all expended, an Arab colonel, though already wounded, led them on against the enemy in a final bayonet charge, and was killed at the head of his men. They were almost all shot down or cut to pieces. It was a long, stubborn fight. The enemy suffered severely, and had the numbers been at all equal Egypt must have won the day. As it was, they fought without hope from early morn to afternoon, and only a mere handful were taken prisoners. These, with unusual magnanimity, were sent to Massowah to tell the tale by way of warning.

"Egypt suffers almost more by the loss of officers than by the loss of troops. Egyptians, like all partially civilized races, can fight only when well led, and good leaders are hard to find in this country. Rakel Bey was one of the most promising of the younger generation of Egyptian officials. He was a man of education, a clever member of a clever family, and possessed of great courage and determination. Colonel Arendroop was a man of great capacity. He had a thorough military training as an engineer in Denmark, and, having come to winter in Egypt for his health five years ago, he was induced to enter the Egyptian service. His military training and capacity at once secured him the confidence of the government, who showed the trust they placed in his powers by giving him the command of the troops in this unfortunate expedition, and the noble gallantry he displayed proved the confidence was not misplaced. Colonel Arendroop was a very popular man; his high moral and intellectual character had won the esteem of the European community, and his fine soldierly figure and pleasant face will be greatly missed at many a house in Cairo.

"Of course, this massacre does not end the strife. The Khedive realizes that his opponent must not be despised—that he is in fact, formidable, both by his army and his geographical position. Great efforts are therefore, being made to concentrate all available troops at the seat of war. Five thousand men left Suez, with some elephants recently imported from India, three days ago, and more are leaving every day. Generals Loring and Reynolds, men who made a name and learnt how to handle armies in the American war, go in command. A proper commissariat is in course of organization. But the victory will not come without struggle. The strife is now bittered by religious hatred. It is Christian against Moslem, and the Abyssinian, who has no superstitious dread of the Egyptian as he had of the Englishman, means to fight. The result will be very anxiously expected here. Although there is a general feeling that Egypt mistakes her true policy in extended conquests, the desire is nevertheless universal here that the only civilized power in Africa should be victorious in this unfortunate strife."

The Cavalry Brigadier General, Zoroodo, was captured by the Alfonsoists in the battle of the 13th February.

LONG SERVICE PRESENTATION.—After the Halifax Field Battery, under the command of Capt. J. R. Graham, had fired the customary salute yesterday afternoon at the opening of the Legislature, the captain called Sergeant Jeromish Barnstead to the front, and presented him with a medal which has been designed to decorate those who have served twenty-one years in the Battery, and for good deportment, and of which Quarter master Harry Artz was last year a recipient. Sergt. Barnstead completed his 21st year of service in November last. A similar medal was ready for presentation to Sergt. James Carr, (who has likewise completed the term) but who was absent on account of a death in his family. The medals are of silver with a gold monogram space for the name of the Battery, and containing an inscription setting forth the presentation, date, etc., the whole the neat workmanship of Bennett Bros. In this connection, it may be noticed that nobody can on parade day glance at the fine physique of the men without reflecting that such pursuits to occupy leisure time are calculated to be very much more advantageous than the way in which spare moments are spent in the large majority of instances.—*Acadian Recorder.*

The *Naval and Military Gazette* informs its readers that, as torpedoes, both offensive and defensive, are being extensively introduced into the Naval Service, it has been resolved to manufacture not only them but the galvanic batteries and other apparatus to form the torpedo equipment. This manufacture is to be carried on at the Royal Laboratory, Woolwich. At first the electric appliances were furnished by private makers, but Colonel Fraser, R. A., the superintendent of the department, has in conjunction with Professor Abel and the officers of the Chemical Establishment, arranged a system of manufacture under his own supervision which will be of material advantage to the Service. The torpedoes and their accessories form a conspicuous part of the special display which the department is now making in honour of the Christmas visitors.—*Broad Arrow.*

DEATH OF A VOLUNTEER.—An affair happened on the 2nd inst., at Big Sandy, Benton County, Tennessee, which resulted in the death of a young man, a native of Montreal, named Peter Taylor, who met his death by being run over by a train of cars. He was once a member of the Victoria, and was one of the gallant volunteers who accompanied General Wolsey in the first expedition to Manitoba. After his return home his health failed him, and he went south for its recovery, when he met with the lamentable accident which caused his early decease. He was a son of Mr. John Taylor, of Montcalm street, and his untimely end will be regretted by a large circle of friends.—*Evening Star.*

The *Post's* Washington special says: "There is considerable excitement among naval officers over an order issued by the Secretary of the Navy yesterday, directing the United States steamer *Despatch* to proceed to sea to-morrow, with sealed orders. This steamer is the fastest vessel in the Navy, and was ordered here from Baltimore a few days ago for repairs; and it is not believed that she would be sent to sea now under sealed orders, unless in some unexpected emergency. Naval officers are of opinion that her destination has some connection with Cuban matters.