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Earl Sydney has (doubtless by command) laid before the Queen an extensive scheme for the abolition of a number of offices, and reducing the expenditure generally, of the Royal Household.

By the retirement of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Chas. Elliot, Admiral Lord John Hay becomes an A. F., Vice-Admiral Lyons goes up to the Admiral's list, Rear Admiral Sir Fred. Richards becomes a Vice-Admiral, and Capt. Jas. G. Mead, if he does not retire, will obtain his Rear-Admiral's flag. The three A. F.'s are now, the venerable Sir P. W. P. Wallis, G. C. B., who is approaching his 100th year, and who is retained on the active list as a special case: Sir Geoffrey T. Phipps-Hornby, G. C. B., who is 63, and Lord John Hay, G. C. B., who is 61, being the youngest officer who ever attained the highest rank.

The lance now being issued to the German Cavalry is composed entirely of metal, the lance-pole being replaced by a steel cylinder, which renders it handier and lighter than when made of wood. The French are considering the advisability of restoring this arm to their cavalry, as its hasty abolition was a doubtful proceeding. Although the weapon is of little avail in the *mêlée*, it is most formidable otherwise, and its moral effect is enormous. As seen during the Indian Mutiny and in the Zulu and Egyptian wars, men will throw themselves on the ground before Hussars or other troops unable to reach them with the sword, and when they have passed spring up and fire, whereas the approach of Lancers will cause a precipitate retreat.

The self-seeking and unscrupulous Mr. Wiman is showing himself in his true colors, in an endeavor to defraud the stockholders of the Montreal Telegraph Company, with which he entered into a contract for a thirty years rental of their system. He now turns round upon them, and tells them that their plant and guarantees are valueless, and that, as all but four of their officers are under the control of the G. N. W. Telegraph Company, they must submit to a 25 per cent, or any other reduction he may offer, or he will break the contract. This worthy disciple of the grasping Jay Gould, is one of those brazen monopolists whose operations go far to justify anarchical cries against capital. If Mr. Wiman endeavors to carry out his iniquitous designs, it will probably come before the Canadian courts.

Notwithstanding the outcry raised a year or so ago about the infamous quality of the bayonets, sabres and cutlasses, manufactured for the British Army and Navy, the evil is not yet, it would appear, stamped out. Complaints have again cropped up of the uselessness of the bayonets and sabres used by the British Troops at Suakim in the recent action. One hussar is said to have been killed through his sabre breaking during the fight, and we believe there was also reason to complain of the quality of the bayonets. If these things are true, they are most disgraceful, and it is to be hoped Parliament will take energetic steps to guard against the greed and corruption of contractors. There is, however, a subsequent statement that the weapons now complained of are of German manufacture, which we hope may be true. But if this be the case, the question arises, what business has England to depend upon foreign manufacture for articles of such importance?

One great argument advanced against the erection of iron and steel works in Nova Scotia is that there is not market sufficient in the Dominion to pay interest on the large capital required. There is no question as to the immense value of the iron and coal deposits in close proximity, and it is a known fact that no country in the world has greater natural facilities for the cheap manufacture of steel and iron than this Province by the sea, and yet, on the argument that there is not sufficient market, many or most of the best iron properties still remain comparatively undeveloped. The operations of Mr. Lesly on the Holmes Primrose iron areas at East River, Pictou County, extend the hope that the large iron deposits of that locality are about to be opened up and this looks as though the fallacy of the no-market theory had been exposed. The growth of the Dominion in wealth and population is very rapid, and every year sees a steady increase in the demand for steel and iron. Iron and steel shipbuilding have, strange to say, been successfully started at Owen Sound, and if success is possible there, how much greater are the advantages of Nova Scotia? One steel ship has been completed at Owen Sound, and now a fresh contract has been taken to build a large steel steamer, the machinery for which is to be constructed at Toronto. If the undertaking pays under these circumstances, there is every reason why steel and iron shipbuilding should pay much better in Nova Scotia. Pictou and New Glasgow seem to be the towns with special facilities for the business, and not a year should elapse before some steps are taken to substitute iron and steel shipbuilding for the now almost abandoned wooden shipbuilding.

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We notice with pleasure the appointment of Col. Armstrong, of the N. B. Garrison Artillery, and Col. Curren, of the Halifax Garrison Artillery, to be extra Aides-de-Camp to Lord Stanley. This recognition of the services and efficiency of Col. Curren will be received in Halifax with great satisfaction both by his fellow-citizens at large, and by his brother officers and the Militia generally, Col. Curren having in every way well merited the distinction.

The C. P. R. has issued three new pamphlets fully explaining the capabilities of the great Canadian North-West, and its immense advantages to settlers over the adjoining American States. One of them is a sketch by Mr. Henry Norman, the Special Correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of *The Prairies of Manitoba and Who Live on Them*. Another is a series of every-day questions and answers to them. The C. P. R., by the large circulation of its practical pamphlets in Great Britain, has done wonders in accelerating the rapid settlement of our great wheat country.

Most of us fancy we know Shelley, that is to say his poems, for it is no fault of numbers of biographers if we do not know the man; but it seems that but a few rich people do know his works as they come from his hands. A new edition, published by Mr. Rd. Hearne Shepherd, brings within the reach of the book-lover of modest means what have hitherto been, so far as the full sense of the author is concerned, sealed books. The alterations or emendations by authors of their own works are generally damaging to their freshness, but Shelley stands on a different footing. The alterations he made were forced upon him by the timidity of printers and publishers, who refused, except upon their own terms, to give his writings publicity: they were made by Shelley under compulsion, and are in no sense his own. So soon, then, as changed times permit, the works are to be read in their integrity. In place of the emasculated "Revolt of Islam," the reader now has "Laon and Cythna," with its full revelation of Shelley's moral, political, and theological views. Of the poets of the first half of the century, Shelley is psychologically the most interesting. His own absolute views and expressions are precisely what the world wants. They are now accessible, and the new edition, which includes many pieces not given in ordinary editions, is a boon of the highest order.