

to the value of smokeless powder, but from what Sir Evelyn Wood says in his observations on a recent "Fox Hill day," there can be little question as to its great superiority over black powder. At a distance of 2,660 yards, or twenty yards over a mile and a half, Sir Evelyn tells us that one particular battery "could not see its enemy even after the guns had been firing cordite for some minutes," and he had actually to make the invisible battery fire some ordinary powder before its enemy could make out its position. The reason why the battery could not be seen by its enemy, was, according to Sir Evelyn Wood, due to "atmospheric conditions and to low woods screening it." The invisible battery, however, could see its opponent plainly enough. This is a great testimony to the value of cordite, and in midst of the doubt which hangs over the question of smokeless powder one fact like this is worth any number of suggestions. Cordite, it may be mentioned, is not altogether smokeless, for owing to the sawdust which is mixed with it, doubtless for the purpose of delaying combustion and for filling the chamber, a little smoke is made, though nothing in comparison to that created by the ordinary black powder.

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The programme of the D.R.A. rifle matches has been issued. It is replete with information as to the different competitions and also the regulations which have been adopted. The new rule in reference to ammunition is a most important one. It states that competitors must provide themselves with and use the ammunition which will be sold by the association on the range at the rate of 15 cents per package of 10 rounds, but any competitors can take his choice as to whether he will use English or Canadian made ammunition. We still adhere to the opinion that this change in the system of issuing the ammunition is a great mistake. It entails extra worry and labour upon the competitors and for no earthly reason. The explanation that there was a shortage in the ammunition office returns under the old system is no excuse, as the officers of the association should have made it their business to see that their stuff was so organized and checked that there could be no shortage.

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Some people on this continent are everlastingly fond of their love of liberty and all that sort of thing but somehow or another we do not ever hear of their country doing anything to further the cause of liberty in those quarters of the world which still linger in the darkness of slav-

ery. We do, however, almost every week, hear of our navy doing its part in the long war waged against slavery. A letter from the Bishop of Zanzibar, Dr. Smythies, sent to the Universities Mission for Central Africa, describes the capture of a slave dhow by H. M. S. *Philomel*, in circumstances rather out of the common. The dhow was not large, but 42 slaves were found crowded on board, besides a crew of six men and eleven traders, including the owner of the dhow. The slaves were mostly. "I noticed," writes the Bishop, "one little girl and one baby in its mother's arms. The mother was very weak, and when one of the sailors took her baby to help her on board the boat she began to cry, but soon understood it was only to help her. The sailors are always most kind to the slaves, and full of indignation against the slave traders." When the *Philomel's* boat first reached the dhow one of the men threatened the first sailor to board with a revolver, but resistance was, of course, hopeless, and he thought better of it. Soon the whole 59 people were on board the *Philomel*, a hole was knocked in the bottom of the dhow, and in three-quarters of an hour from the time she was boarded all was over, and nothing was left of her but a few poor rats swimming hopelessly about in search of a home. The beauty of the liberty the Union Jack represents is that those who benefit by it do not regard it as a monopoly.

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We reproduce in another column an article from the *Ottawa Citizen* on the appointment of Mr. Wilfred Campbell to the charge of the records branch of the militia department, and we heartily endorse every word the writer of the *Ottawa paper* has written. Mr. Campbell's literary merit is well known and if his appointment means that he is going to combine the unconnected records in the departmental pigeon holes into a connected history of the Canadian militia, the force and all who really take any interest in Canadian history are to be congratulated and Mr. Campbell is just the one to do it. Mr. Brymner has done much splendid work in this connection, but much remains to be done.

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A Kingston paper says: "In a few days Sergt. Major Stroud, "A" Battery, will have served 21 years in Her Majesty's service. If he were discharged to-morrow he would not receive a pension, because retired Canadian soldiers are not recognized by the Government." There is nothing very new in the information contained in this paragraph as to the ab-

sence of a pension system in our permanent service, but it is just as well to have this disgrace brought to the attention of the public as often as possible, for the public after all can be depended upon to see that justice is done to its defenders. Our permanent corps, as it is, are a credit to Canada, but they would be much improved if an equitable pension system were established, and we should hear less of desertions. It is now well enough established goodness knows, that a small permanent force is a necessity in Canada, and there can be no excuse for delaying the establishment of a pension system. Before it is too late a large tract of public land should be set apart as the nucleus of a pension fund for the permanent corps.

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Those who have been attacking Lieut. Col. Smith, commanding officer of the 14th Princess of Wales Own Rifles, for his treatment of the case of insubordination in his regiment while in Montreal, had better be more chary of their criticisms until they are better informed as to the facts of the cases. Lieut. Col. Smith is not only one of the best officers in the service, but a lenient one, while yet a stickler for "regulations." It is not correct that he dismissed the non-commissioned officers and men of No. 6 Company. He merely relieved them from further duty in connection with the regiment, pending orders from headquarters. All the papers and correspondence in the matter have gone forward to Ottawa through the deputy adjutant general.

"ENGLAND'S LAMENT."

"Toll for the brave!" Ah, not since Cowper sang,
The Royal George, when round the land there rang
One universal plaint.
Has sorrow stricken thus our sea-girt isle,
With news that chills the glow of woman's smile
And makes the man's heart faint!
Lost, lost! Four hundred glad and gallant lives,
At one chance stroke! Vainly the spirit strives
To stand against the shock.
Not summoned swift to fall in battle brave,
Not storm-confounded, whelmed beneath the wave,
Or dashed upon the rock.
But dragged, from admiral to gunner, down
To death in peaceful waters, doomed to drown
Unwarned and unaware.
Oh, gallant Tryon! oh, great-hearted host!
England's lament for English souls so lost
Saddens the summer air!
Toll for the brave! And let a reverent sigh
Of silent, but most heartfelt sympathy
Rise from each British breast
For those whose kindred and whose comrades true
Beneath the inland ocean's waters blue
Sleep honored and at rest!

—London Punch.