

	United States.	Great Britain.
Battleships.....	8	60
Coast defence vessels.....	20	11
Armored cruisers.....	2	29
Protected cruisers.....	13	74
Cruisers.....	20	92
Gun vessels.....	17	16
Torpedo vessels.....	1	34
Total vessels.....	81	316
Torpedo boats.....	9	251
Grand total.....	90	567

England has increased the personnel of her navy each year since 1891-92, making the total force now 88,850, an increase of 17,850 men in four years. The total force of officers and men in the navy of the United States is 13,400, including marines, and when the Secretary of the Navy asked for 2,000 more men to man the new ships the Fifty-third Congress cut him down one-half. These figures are taken from the last annual report of the Secretary of the Navy.

#### COL. POWELL SUPARANNATED.

At moment of going to press the following despatch has been received from our Ottawa correspondent :

"It is stated here on good authority, but not confirmed, that Col. Walter Powell, Adjutant-General, is to be superannuated and succeeded by Lieut.-Col. Aylmer, and Major D. C. Bliss to be Assistant Adjutant General."

### CORRESPONDENCE.

QUEBEC, 16th December, 1895.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE :

RE :—THE CANADIAN MILITARY VALISE EQUIPMENT.

DEAR SIR,—Having had an opportunity of thoroughly inspecting the Canadian Military Valise Equipment which was invented by Mr. Patrick Lewis, of the Military Stores Department, Quebec, and believing a description of the same will prove of interest to the readers of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, I take pleasure in submitting herewith a general description of the equipment with a few remarks appertaining to the same.

It may be described as follows :—

The sundry pouch contains all small articles required by the soldier, such as pipe and tobacco, matches, knife and fork, spoon, needles, thread, buttons, pins, scissors, bandages, sticking plaster, etc.

The ammunition carriers contain 45 rounds, and can be easily got at when the soldier is lying down.

The ammunition pouch contains 100 rounds, and is jointly carried by brades and waist-belt. It can be exchanged with the great-coat and carried on the back if required. If more ammunition is required the sundry pouch will carry 60 rounds, making in all 205 rounds.

The water bottle contains 1½ pints of filtered water.

The equipment as above, with great-coat, mess tin, haversack, 145 rounds of ammunition with water bottle full, weighs only 22 lbs., with the extra 60 rounds of ammunition it weighs 26 lbs.

The valise, when carried, may be quickly thrown off, still leaving you all the ammunition.

This equipment does away with the necessity of the soldier's relying upon the assistance of a comrade to dress, and no part of it can easily be mislaid or go astray in camp or in an emergency as the whole is connected with the waist-belt.

Our Militia Force to be effective should be properly armed and equipped to enable them to take the field in a comparatively short time and in a condition to ensure the best results in their favour, which cannot be attained unless efforts are made to place them upon an equal if not upon a superior footing to any Force with which they may in the course of events be called upon to face. It is well known that the arms and equipment at present in use are as a rule antiquated and to a great extent useless. As regards the former, action has been taken to obtain an arm superior to any now in use here, and further steps will doubtless be taken in the same direction, but as regards the equipment no action appears to have been taken with a view of its improvement. From the above description of Mr. Lewis's equipment it can be readily understood that it possesses advantages which are superior to the ones now in use and having been thoroughly looked into by such authorities as Major-General I. J. C. Herbert, late G. O. Commanding the Militia and by his successor Major-General Gascoigne and by Lieut-Colonel C. E. Montizambert of the Royal Canadian Artillery, all of whom have expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with its general advantages, it now remains with the Department of Militia and Defence, to take the matter in hand and give the equipment a proper test, by putting a certain number into use. Should the results prove satisfactory and in accordance with the claims of the inventor the Canadian Militia would upon its adoption into general use find themselves equipped superior to any other force.

The equipment possesses among other advantages that of strength, simplicity and capacity. It is quickly and easily put on and removed, ensures the soldier being able to turn out at a moments notice, with all he requires to take in the field. The chance of forgetting part of his necessaries is removed, as in putting on the valise he at the same time takes into use the ammunition, haversack, water bottle, supplementary pouch etc. The ammunition is so placed as to be ready for immediate use and does not interfere with the movements of the rifle, the chance of loss of ammunition is also removed. The water bottle is at hand and can be easily removed and replaced and being provided with a filter ensures water fit for use. In addition to the above there are several advantages in favour of this equipment and for the good of the service it is hoped the department will take necessary steps to give it a fair trial with a view to its adoption. It is needless to state that Mr. Lewis has given the matter every attention and being thoroughly experienced in the requirements of a

soldier he should be given an opportunity to give his invention a thorough test and if found favourable it should in the near future be issued to the Militia force.

I have the honou to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST F. WURTELE,

Captain, retired list.

### A Toronto Church Parade.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE :

DEAR SIR,—Chancing to be in Toronto on 3rd November last I saw the brigade church parade, a splendid turn out, but it was slightly marred by the appearance of an individual marching in front of one of the battalions wearing a kind of nondescript undress uniform, composed of a peaked forage cap with gold band and buttons, a presumable artillery officer's patrol jacket, pants with broad red stripe, probably a sword. He could not possibly be of any military rank, nor even on the retired list, or he would have known better than appear at a full-dress parade in such a rig out. As it was a Toronto church parade no one but the officers of the brigade, not even R. L. officers, could take part therein unless specially invited. It must have escaped the D.A.G.'s notice, for he surely would not have permitted any one falling in unless properly dressed. A little light on this subject, and who the distinguished was, with a view to future parades, would not be amiss.

F. D.

Ottawa, 30th Nov., 1895.

### R. M. C. College Notes.

Capt. G. S. Cartwright, Royal Engineers, upon completion of a tour of service in the East Indies, has been posted to Chatham for duty, to command a depot company at the School of Military Engineering.

There is an excellent photograph of Lieut. Duncan S. MacInnes, Royal Engineers, in a recent issue of *Black and White*. This young officer has been specially selected for duty with the telegraph detachment, Royal Engineers, employed in the Ashantee expedition.

Gentleman Cadet J. W. Osborne has been commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Scottish Rifles. This makes the fifth commission awarded in 1895 to a Kingston graduate. Hitherto it has only been customary to grant four commissions annually in the imperial forces, the year 1894 being the first time that five cadets were commissioned in the British army, as follows : G. F. F. Osborne, Royal Engineers ; V. L. Beer, Royal Artillery ; F. C. Heneker, Leinster Regiment ; J. J. Doull, Yorkshire Light Infantry ; R. H. B. Magee, Royal Munster Fusiliers.

Capt. Herbert Montgomery Campbell is doing duty with the Royal Horse Artillery at Kirkee, East Indies. We inadvertently stated in a recent issue that he was attached as adjutant to a volunteer corps, our error having been caused by a similarity of initials and names.