

a gigantic rat, an odoriferous mouse, and the arampo, or "man-eater," which digs up and devours dead bodies. Reptiles are numerous, including serpents of all kinds, scorpions and centipedes, toads and frogs—some of the former being of an immense size—and lizards. Of birds there are pheasants, partridges wild ducks (of a very beautiful plumage), doves, crown birds, parrots, paroquets, guinea sparrows, and bee-eaters. The waterfowl are heron, bittern, and sea mews. Birds of prey include eagles, kites, and one not larger than a dove, but older and more rapacious than any other bird. Those peculiar to the country are the pooloe—useful for destroying field rats,—and a bird about twice the size of the sparrow, with a shrill, hollow note and the sound of which is said to be of ill-omen. All the Ashantee birds are remarkable for their plumage, but none have pleasing voices, the only songsters being the nightingale and the thrush. The woods are full of bees, and a species of ant called termites, so numerous and rapacious that a sheep attacked by them in the night has been found a skeleton in the morning. Fire flies dragon-flies, a fly like the eunthridies in appearance and scent: indeed all tropical insects but the mosquito are found here. Black and hump-backed whales are found on the coast between September and December, and there are plenty of sharks—which form the common food of the Gold Coast negroes—and other sea fish; and the rivers yield corals and oysters, which feed on the branches of the mangrove and other trees, but are not good for food if the water be fresh.—*Land and Water.*

At Cronstadt is being constructed a submarine vessels of enormous dimensions, in which 2,000 tons of iron and steel have been employed, which is propelled by two powerful air engines, will be armed with a formidable ram, and will carry all the means for fixing to the hulls of vessels large cylinders of powder, which it can afterwards explode by electricity. Two glass eyes will enable the crew to find their way about, and they may choose their course to what depth they please below water.

The German *Military Weekly Gazette* explains that Berlin is not included in the German system of fortresses, because it is not really the military centre of the Empire, or even the Monarchy. Berlin will therefore not be fortified, but really for protection upon the fortresses surrounding it at some distance, namely, Magdeburg, Spandau, Kustrin, Glogau, and Torgau. These fortresses will be raised to places of the first order; Magdeburg has been so strengthened already.

Russia, says *Broad Arrow*, is positively mad about railways. Certainly they are excellent devices for drawing money, and a poor Government which is not particular in appropriating railway money to war purposes finds them very convenient. A Central Asian line is the last announcement. The Kirghese Steppe has been surveyed for this purpose by General Beznotskoff, and he has suggested six routes. The most preferred is 850 miles long.

Experiments are still in progress with fish torpedoes at the canal in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and several improvements have been effected in them to promote both their speed and accuracy. The mechanism at the tail end of the fish, presumed to be a novel steering apparatus, is always kept carefully covered up while on land to conceal it from curious eyes.

## RIFLE COMPETITION.

### FIRST BATT. RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The Annual Competition of the Association took place on Monday at the Rifle Range, Freetown. The weather was most unfavourable, cold, raw and chilly, the wind blowing a gale, straight across the Range, and testing most severely the skill of the competitors.

The highest figure were made by Bindman Perkins, who came out with the splendid score of 47 points—7 shots at 400 and 500 yards. Quartermaster Sergt. Lapsett followed with a similar score; Pt. Woodward 3rd, with 44 points.

The prizes in this as well as in the York County Match recently held, were presented in the City Hall last evening, in the presence of quite a number of ladies and gentlemen who thus manifested their interest in our local Rifle Associations.

The prizes in the first competition of the County Match were presented by Lt. Col. Maunsell, D. A. G., who in a brief and pleasant speech rehearsed the rise and progress of Rifle Associations, the patronage extended them in England and more recently throughout the Dominion, and showing that these annual competitions had been the means of largely enhancing the efficiency not only of the Volunteers but of the Regular Army as well. He concluded by complimenting the York County Association on possessing such a number of good shots, notable that veteran marksman Lt. Johnson, standing at the head of the list in both competitions.

The prizes in the 2nd Competition were presented by Hon. J. A. Beckwith, who, unsparingly facetious, somewhat sorely tried the nerves of several bashful young gentlemen who at his hands became the recipients of their respective prizes.

The Consolation prizes were presented by Lt. Col. Saunders.

In the Battalion Association a number of very handsome prizes were offered for competition. These included Twenty dollars presented by Robert Robinson, Esq. M. P.; Ten Dollars by the Prov. Secretary; Ten Dollars by Hon. John A. Beckwith, together with money prizes from Lt. Col. Maunsell, A. G. Blair, Esq., and G. F. H. Minchin, Esq. In addition to these were Sheriff Temple's Challenge Pitcher, a set of beautiful Castors presented by His Worship the Mayor, a silver Cup by a lady friend, a silver Cup by G. Fred. Fisher, Esq., an elegant Shawl by Miller & Edgecombe, together with a number of other prizes which will appear in the following list together with the names of the winners. The money, it will appear was subdivided into smaller prizes, thus giving encouragement to the younger members of the Association.

1. Sheriff Temple's Challenge Cup and \$8.00—Pt. Perkins.

2. Set of Silver Castors by His Worship the Mayor—Quar. Mr. Sergt. Lapsett.
3. Lady's Cup—Pt. Woodward.
4. Silver Cup by G. Fred. Fisher, Esq.—Lt. Johnson.
5. Shawl, by Miller & Edgecombe—Pt. B. Morris.
6. \$7.00—Pt. Biggs.
7. Bronze Bird, very fine, by Lemont & Sons—Major Morris.
8. Pair of Pants, by Major Morris—Pt. Whitehead.
9. \$6.00—Sergt. Pinder.
10. Silver Cup, by Pt. Loggic—Quartermaster Hogg.
11. Silver Cup, by Quartermaster Hogg—Pt. M'Bean.
12. Watch Stand and Ash Stand, by Capt. Cropley—Pt. Johnston.
13. 5.00—Pt. Macpherson.
14. Papier Mache Ink Stand, by S. F. Shute, Esq.—Lt. Payne.
15. Meerchaum Pipe, by McDonald & Keadey—Buglar Moxon.
16. Clock, by Alderman Babbitt—Sergt. Winter.
18. Pencil Case, by E. I. Wetmore—Ens. M'Lean.
18. \$4.00—Pt. Brannen.
19. \$3.00—Ensign Bird.
20. \$3.00—Pt. Patchell.
21. \$2.00—Capt. A. G. Beckwith.
22. \$1.00—Pt. Loggic.
23. Pair of Vases, by Pt. Perkins—Capt. Staples.
24. Guntlet Gloves, by T. Logan, Esq.—Sergt. Major Vandine.
25. Little Cologne, by C. L. Davis, Esq.—Pt. Richards.
26. Spoon Holder, by J. G. M'Nally, Esq.—Ensign Boone.

The prize for the poorest shot, a pair of Spectacles, presented by Pt. Perkins, was won by Pt. Morrill, who scored 2 points. During the presentation the Band of the Battalion, now in a most creditable state of efficiency played some very fine selections, concluding with the National Anthem.—*N. B. Recorder.*

K. S. Prince of Tigre, now Johann II., Emperor of Abyssinia, and a Christian to boot, according to the correspondent of the *Giornale delle Colonie*, who writes from Moscow, under date of the 3rd of August, having captured the brave pretender to the throne, Abba Kassai, ordered his ears to be filled with gun-cotton, which he caused to be exploded, when the head was blown to atoms. It is reported that he lately caused the right hands and the legs of no less than twenty-seven captives to be chopped off in his imperial presence and then abandoned them to be preyed upon by lions, tigers, and panthers.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* describes the changes made in four of the little howitzer carriages, specially constructed for the expedition against the Ashantees, to adapt them for use with the Gatling mitrailleuse. The entire carriage and limber are constructed of wrought iron, the limber-boxes, being of sheet steel, with a bottom loose lining of wood. Two drums for cartridges are contained in each limber-box, which has a partition running down the centre; thus four drums are upon the limber, containing each 240 cartridges, making a total of 960 rounds for the gun. The loose lining of wood in the boxes forms a stand for the pin upon which the drum rests.