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BOOSEY & CO., 295 REGENT STREET, LONDON.  
MANUFACTORY—STANHOPE PLACE, HYDE PARK.

## Notes of Current Events.

The Sixth Fusiliers and the Garrison Artillery, of Montreal, had their annual moonlight excursions on the St. Lawrence on Monday evening last.

At Chambly on Saturday the Victoria Rifles were defeated by the Chambly cricket club by an innings and a run, the score standing 113 to 112.

The shooting men of the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, have presented a handsome Snider rifle to Pte. Thomson, who represented the corps at Wimbledon this year.

A poem by Maurice Thompson, presenting an address by an ex-rebel to the Grand Army of the Republic, will be one of the features of the October *American Magazine*.

The following in reference to Dumont is taken from the Fergus County (Montana) *Argus*: "Gabriel Dumont returned to Lewiston a few days ago from the upper country. He has recently squeezed enough money out of the breeds to purchase a horse and cart, and will start soon for the Turtle Mountain region in Dakota. He expects to join the Wild West show in Paris later in the fall. Dumont was with this show before it left for England, but he did not dare venture on British soil, so remained behind. He is shrewd enough to get along and live without work, but is losing prestige among the breeds, and is, indeed, a very harmless character."

At the final meeting of the Halifax Volunteer Aid Association recently held the committee presented a report showing the total receipts on account of the fund for distribution among the families of the volunteers who went to the North-West to have been \$4,751.83. The contributions were almost all voluntary, and the opinion is expressed that three times the amount might have been secured if desired. \$3,651.43 was distributed among the families of the volunteers during their absence, and the balance has since been paid out to needy families during the winter months. The committee specially thank L.-Col. J. R. Murray for his services in distributing the funds.

Henry Saunders, a farmer of Oak Lake, Manr, while serving with the militia in the suppression of the North-west rebellion of 1885, completely lost his voice from exposure and lying on the damp ground, and subsequently remained quite dumb. He consulted many medical men at great expense, and all pronounced his case a bad one, and gave him but slight hopes of ever recovering his speech again. The government had him examined, and granted him a pension of \$200 a year. On waking up one morning lately he surprised his wife by conversing with her freely, and the gift of speech has remained with him ever since. He expresses the hope that the government will continue his pension, as he has suffered a great drawback from the want of his speech for so long a time—upwards of two years—and indeed his health generally is not so good as formerly, as he still complains of pains in his back.

England proposes, it appears to adopt the .31 calibre (or .307) for the magazine gun she is to take in place of her Martini's. The calibre of the Lebel rifle officially adopted by France is about the same, 8 mm. (.315 in.), as is also that of the French Pralon rifle, for which such claims are made. The Tramond-Lebel rifle is said to deliver bullets with a precision hitherto unattained and upon an almost straight trajectory, the mark being hit ninety-five times out of the hundred. There is scarcely any recoil from the discharge, whilst the noise of the report cannot be distinguished beyond sixty-five feet at the most. There seems to be rapidly approaching a capacity to kill equalling the perfection of Rider Haggard's heroine, "She," who could slay an enemy by pointing her finger.

The two new swift cruisers *Ching-Chuan* and *Cheh-Yuan*, built for the Chinese government by Messrs. Armstrong & Co., have arrived at Spithead in company with a torpedo boat, said to be the fastest afloat, all under the command of Admiral Lang, of the Pekin navy. Each of the cruisers is about 268 feet long and 38 feet beam, with a depth of 21 feet from the maindeck to the keel, and they are engaged by Tennant & Co. with triple expansion cylinders capable of realising a speed of 18 knots. Their armament consists of three 21 centimetre Krupp guns, two 6-inch Armstrongs, eight Hotchkiss 6-pounder quick firing guns, and six Gatlings. The cruisers remain at Spithead until joined by two other warships built at Stettin for the Chinese government, when the squadron will sail for Canton.

The following notice of the opening of the military camp for No. 9 district, at Aldershot, is from the *Halifax Mail*: "Aldershot, Sept. 9.—Brigade camp opened here on Tuesday. Col. Worsley, D.A.G. and staff arrived on Monday. The brigade is composed of three regiments and the Kings county troop of cavalry. The camp is arranged as follows: The D.A.G. and staff are on the extreme right, the 93rd Cumberland regiment under command of Col. Harrison coming next, then the 78th regiment, Col. Blair of Truro commanding. This regiment is made up of companies from Pictou, Colchester and Hants. The next in order is the 18th from Kings county, under command of Col. Chipman of Kentville, and on the extreme left is the cavalry, numbering some 50 officers and men, under the command of Capt. Ryan of Kentville—in all about 1100 officers and men. They have settled down to work and are now hard at it. Col. Worsley, who has command of the brigade, is evidently an "old soldier" and understands his business. The men composing the regiments are very young men, youths probably under 20. Many have not yet advanced beyond the "goose step." The best of order prevails. No liquor can be had on the ground. Doubtless there is some brought for "medicinal" purposes, if so the effects are hardly noticeable. The Y. M. C. A. have made provision for the comfort of the men while off duty. The camp is expected to last ten days, closing on Friday with a grand review. General Middleton is expected here on Monday. The paymaster and superintendent of stores, Col. John R. Murray, is here with his hands full of business. He has just returned from Ottawa. There are only two cases in hospital, one from the 68th and one from the 93rd.

## Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

WINNIPEG—A MILITARY VIEW OF ITS POSSIBLE FUTURE.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—It is to be hoped that our good friends and loyal fellow subjects at Winnipeg have blown away all the superfluous gas connected with *disallowance*. This done it will then be in order to consider how the further development of the vast territories of which the ambitious city will be the emporium, may best be brought about, provided, as is to be hoped, our valiant friends do not attempt to *lust* Confederation, and that in mercy to all mankind they will sit upon the fighting editor till the cool fit comes on. People in this meridian don't carry either *Coll's* convenience or the old Highland institution known as *Skene dhus*.

Fifteen years in the life of a city is not a very high antiquity and the prosperity of Winnipeg is very great indeed. Enterprise may do a great deal, but there must be capital as a basis or foundation to work on; and, be it stated with all due respect to the good citizens, they are just taking the trouble to frighten away that very sensitive and much needed assistance, without which enterprise is nowhere. If our irate friends can get the Militia Report for 1872, and will carefully peruse it, they will find there outlined a plan, the development of which must prove of vast advantage to their city.

The gallant soldier (since passed away to the great majority) who made a reconnaissance from Lake Nipissing to the Pacific Coast, passing through Fort Garry, with its thirty houses all told, then proposed an Imperial garrison for itself and dependencies, as will be found set forth at pages 109-10 of the report. This plan has marked down points where detachments of troops might be stationed, the sedentary *taurus* of the Sioux being rampant less than 400 miles south and our own wild cats by no means to be depended on. The discovery that regular troops were to be called to adjust matters at Fort Garry is not new, but the genius who presented that ornamental bit of the crookedness of his mind and the cussedness of his understanding stumbled if he but knew it, against a small modicum of truth.

The city of Winnipeg is an important centre as a site of strategical value from a military point of view, and the place of concentration for the grain trade of the Northwest provinces, the greatest wheat producing region in the world. Winnipeg is within 4,451 miles of Liverpool *via* the St. Lawrence and lakes and railway. Port Moody on the Pacific is 1,485 miles from Winnipeg, which is thus, nearly in the centre of the continent, 5,654 miles from Yokohama in Japan. The whole distance by this route from Liverpool to Yokohama is 10,005. As the centre of a great empire—it is nearly equi-distant from the point of concentration and that of production.

A consideration of these advantages should tend to create a quiet, peaceful municipality, the business of the inhabitants being to develop the magnificent country to all of whose advantages the people have succeeded almost without labor, and certainly in no case had the same toil to be encountered or difficulties to be overcome similar to those met with by the early settlers in other parts of the western world. Its situation and advantages are of such a character that it should prove to be in the end the cheapest sanitarium for recruiting the Imperial troops, after a sojourn in India, a subject which cannot be gone into this issue, but to which I will return in the future.

Valentine Baker Pasha published an article in *Blackwood* for August which will afford a subject which may also be calmly considered in the light of the facts there displayed.

But, Mr. Editor, considerations of space compel me to call a halt for the present.

## GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS—DO THEY BENEFIT THE RANK AND FILE?

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—I am now about a quarter of a century in the volunteer force (since 1862) and wish to have one last shot (a bull's eye, I hope), before retiring.

In all my experience and observations I have failed to see any *real benefit* derived by the rank and file of the force, for the large amount of money expended in grants to rifle associations, whether local, provincial or dominion, or any use in sending a Wimbledon team to England every year at great expense. Take the returns of all the matches throughout the country. Nearly all, with very few exceptions, of the prizes are won by officers, staff-sergeants and n.c.o's. Few, very few, appear to go to privates. Now, why should the record show this state of things? Either because privates *do not attend* or that they are the poorest marksmen. The former is most likely the case, and is it as it ought to be? The chief reason in my experience is, that the privates are composed (particularly in rural battalions) of men of limited means generally, and cannot afford the time, not to speak of the expenses, attending these meetings, the purchase of ammunition for practice, etc. Yet they, if called into action, are the men *expected to use the rifle*, not the officers or staff-sergeants. Can you inform me the amount of ammunition expended in the North-West and the results?

My opinion and views may not be entertained by yourself and others, but all I want is a *candid, thoughtful* opinion in a matter of so much importance. Let the government make marksmen of the rank and file; then there would be some satisfaction for the money spent. I would suggest to the Department of Militia and Defence that a portion at least of the amount now granted to the various rifle associations be granted to the several corps respectively, to be distributed in prizes at the annual drills in camp each year, between the rank and file only. Such a course would, in my opinion, give an impetus to volunteering.

LT.-COL.