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(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

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MONTREAL, 1st MARCH, 1894

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VOL. IX MONTREAL, 1st MARCH 1894 No. 5

Note and Comment.

It is but natural for the straight laced and deep dyed in the wool party papers of the Government persuasion to applaud everything that the Government does, whether good or bad, but it is a pity that the independent papers should have been misled into expressing a sweeping approval of what looks like an injudicious appointment to a commission in the Northwest Mounted Police. We mean of course that appointment of Mr. Gilpin Brown to an inspectorship. It is said that Mr. Brown had a good army record and perhaps he had, but we doubt very much that it had anything to do with the case. From all accounts he would have been just as likely to have secured the appointment with the influence he had at his back if the course of infantry training in the nursery had been all the military training he had. His Excel-

lency, the Governor General, might have known him to have been a good officer and so recommended him, but we feel sure that it was Lord Aberdeen's influence rather than the effect of his testimonials that carried the day.

* * * *

That is what we object to and what the Mounted Policemen who are looking forward for promotion have a right to object to. We would be the last to suggest anything which would tend to curtail the prerogatives or the influence of our Governors General; but most respectfully would submit that His Excellency in pressing his nominees upon the responsible ministers of the various departments is not only abusing his authority, but is setting a most vicious example in a country where personal influence has already been allowed to have so much to do in determining appointments to the public services, that some of these services have been brought to the very lowest depths of degradation and inefficiency. This is plain speaking; but it is patriotic, and it is loyal; for the men who most highly esteem the visible link binding us to the dear Mother Country, the representative of British royalty itself, do not want to see it dragged to the low level of the common political position hunter.

* * * *

The appointment must have a bad influence upon the Mounted Police Force, however good a man Mr. Brown may be, for the scores of fine fellows, just as good as Mr. Brown is, who have enlisted in the force and have done their duty faithfully and well, it means the most grievous sort of a disappointment. Born gentlemen, are the rule, not the exception, in our splendid red-coat force which preserves order on the prairies. The names of most of the great families of England and Canada have prepared on the

rolls of the crack divisions of the N.W. M. P. It was a common and truthful saying at Calgary while "E" and "K" divisions were stationed there that there was more blueblood down at the Fort than in all the rest of Canada put together. Why do these young gentlemen join the force? Some of course do it because they are reckless and ambitious to indulge in a little dare deviltry; but many do it because they hope to get promotion. In the past a goodly proportion of the commissions have gone to men from the ranks and the recipients have invariably given good accounts of themselves.

* * * *

Does this appointment mean that promotions from the ranks except so far as the cases of surgeons are concerned, is to be stopped. We could have understood the appointment of a graduate of the Royal Military College or of an officer with a record in the militia; but for this appointment of a rank outsider, there can be no excuse. The Governor General's recommendation is but an aggravation of the offence.

* * * *

There are not many of the Militia left in the House of Commons at Ottawa, but the few who are there the militia force look to now to do their duty. Particularly do we pin our faith upon that indefatigable hustler Major Sam Hughes; more strength to his elbow.

* * * *

We hope it is not true that a recent arrival in Canada, who has been working the cards for some time to try and secure one of the vacant commissions in the Royal Canadian Artillery has prevailed upon the Governor General to use his influence in his behalf. To judge from a recent experience that would mean his ultimate success, and for the

sake of the force, we do not want that to happen.

* * *

Among the members of the petit jury now impanelled for the present session of the Court of Queen's Bench at Montreal is a retired officer of militia who served over twenty years in the active force. Is it fair that a man who has devoted so much time voluntarily to the service of his country, should be compelled to serve as a petit jurymen, to the great disarrangement of his business; and that while there are thousands of men in the community eligible for jury duties, who have never done a thing for the country beyond contributing to the revenue by consuming taxed goods. Discharged militiamen, rank and file, as well as retired officers, should most decidedly be granted exemption from jury duties. The country does so little for the militiamen that it can afford to do this much with a very good grace.

* * *

What about the new rifles, the necessary revision of the terms for the efficiency competitions, and the vacant commissions in the permanent force?

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades.

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.
P.O. Box 387, Montreal, Que.

TORONTO.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 12th Battalion, York Rangers, was held at Aurora on Friday night. Those present were: Col. Wayling, Majors Lloyd and Thompson, Capts. Hillary, Gower, Unitt, Leslie and Wayling, Lts. Curran, Elliott, Nichol, Lennox and Scott.

The standing committees were appointed as follows: Regimental Committee—Maj. Lloyd, Capt. Hillary and Capt. Leslie. Band Committee—Capt. Gower, Lt. Nichol and Lennox. Rifle Committee—Capt. Unitt, Lieuts. Elliott, Curran and Lennox. Mess Committee—Major Stevenson, Capt. Unitt and Lieut. Scott.

Surgeon Major Hillary, who has been regimental surgeon for over 20 years, forwarded his resignation and a committee was appointed to draft a suitable resolution to be presented to him at the camp.—Empire, Feb. 26th.

* * *

Lieut. Col. Hamilton, commanding the Queen's Own Rifles, has promoted Sergt. W. H. Meadows to be Col. Sergt of "A" Company, and Sgt. W. Burns to be Col. Sgt. of "C" Company, and to be corporals of "K" Company, Ptes. A. E. Kirkpatrick and C. J. Burrill. The regimental recruit class will be opened for the admission of recruits on Wednesday evening,

the 7th March, at 8 o'clock, and be continued on each succeeding Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings until further orders. Second Lt. Peter White will perform the duties of Assistant Adjutant until further orders.

* * *

At a meeting of cavalry officers held recently it was decided to form a Cavalry Association of Canada for the purpose of advancing the interests of cavalry, somewhat on the lines of the associations of the other arms of the Canadian militia at present in existence. The following officers were unanimously elected as the governing body of the association for 1894; President, Lt. Col. D'Arcy Boulton, 3rd Prince of Wales Canadian Dragoons; vice presidents, Lt. Col. J. B. Forsyth, Queen's Own Canadian Hussars; Lt. Col. G. T. Denison, Governor General's Body Guard; Lt. Col. John Duff, 4th Regiment of Cavalry; Lt. Col. J. F. Turnbull, Royal Canadian Dragoons; Lt. Col. James Domville, 8th Princess Louise N. B. Hussars. Committee of Management—Lt. Col. F. C. Denison, C. M. G., M. P., Governor General Body Guard; Lt. Col. Gartshore, 1st Hussars; Lt. Col. Buchner, 2nd Dragoons; Lt. Col. Rogers, 3rd Prince of Wales Canadian Dragoons; Major A. Knight, 4th Hussars; Lt. Col. Taylor, 5th Dragoons; Lt. Col. McArthur, 6th Duke of Connaught's Hussars; Major Markham, 8th Princess Louise N. B. Hussars; Lt. Col. Dunn, Governor General's Body Guard; Captain Ryan, King's Canadian Hussars; Captain Gourdeau, Princess Louise Dragoon Guard; Captain Knight, Winnipeg Dragoons; Capt. Hetherington, Queen's Own Canadian Hussars; Capt. Lessard, Royal Canadian Dragoons; Capt. Baldwin, Manitoba 2nd Dragoons; Capt. Evans, Royal Canadian Dragoons. Honorary secretary treasurer, Capt. Wm. Hamilton Merritt, Governor General's Body Guard, 15 Toronto street, Toronto, Ont.—Mail, March 1st.

MONTREAL.

The military night at the Academy of Music Monday, Feb. 12th, when the Montreal Amateur Operatic Club produced "Erminie," was the occasion of the most representative gathering of Montreal militia officers that has ever assembled within the walls of a Montreal theatre. The uniforms did their part in lending a gay appearance to the audience and it is seldom that the auditorium of our leading theatre has presented a more handsome appearance. By the way the handsome bouquets handed over the foot lights to Misses Walker and Moylan were contributed by the Deputy Adjutant General.

* * *

Haggis was to the fore last evening at the Queen's Hotel, and it was received in the way that Scots always receive their national dish. The cause of it was the annual dinner of C Company, Royal Scots of Canada, and from all accounts it was the best one they ever held. The pretty dining-room of the hotel looked beautiful with its wealth of floral decorations, which fairly covered the tables,

while neat little boutonnières awaited each one of the fifty dinners. At 8.30 Ppe Sgt. Mathieson struck up on the pipes the company march, and the members of the company and their guests marched into the dining hall, where they formed in the centre of the open square in which shape the tables were arranged and the band of the regiment struck up the Royal Scots march. Between courses all had a chance to admire a very pretty souvenir of the occasion, which is a photograph of the company as they appeared at the last inspection, surmounted by the regimental crest, while on the right was that of the company and on the left that of its captain, while underneath was the company motto, "Men who their duties know." Sgt. Goodfellow was in the chair, and on his right and left as the guests of the non-commissioned officers and men were Major E. Ibbotson, Lieut. J. Aird, Capt. Lydon, Capt. J. Ibbotson, Lieuts. F. Meighen and W. F. Forbes, of the Scots; Lt. Col. Caverhill and Lt. R. Linton, R.L.; Capt. R. Reid, M.G.A.; Capt. Bond, P.W.R.; and Lt. Costigan, M.F.B. At other tables among the guests were Sgt. Major Niven, Sgt. Major Instructor Fellowes, M.G.A.; Bandmaster Cooke and Col. Sgt. Goldsack, F Co. R.S. After the loyal toasts a song was given by Col. Sgt. Goldsack, and then the guests' health was drunk and an able response made by Capt. Reid. The regimental band then gave a selection from "Wang," and the chairman proposed the health of the commanding officer and the officers of the regiment. Major Ibbotson responded first in the absence of Lt. Col. Strathy, who was laid up with "la grippe." Captain Lydon also made an able response to the same toast. Sgt. Major Fellowes and Bandmaster Cooke then sang, and after the applause had subsided Corporal Ashley Cooper proposed the military press, which was responded to by Cartridge Box. Capt. Bond then sang, after which Sgt. Major Fellowes proposed the health of the sergeant major and non-commissioned officers of the Royal Scots, to which Sgt. Major Niven replied. After a song by Pte. Ibbotson, and another selection by the band, the health of Capt. Ibbotson of the non-coms. and men of C Company, was proposed by Sgt. Gray, the last toast proposed by Lt. Col. Caverhill, being that of the non-coms. and men of C Company, which was ably responded to by Sgt. Goodfellow and Corp. Cooper. "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen" terminated the proceedings. Those who had the successful dinner in charge were: Capt. J. S. Ibbotson, Lts. F. Meighen, W. F. Forbes; Col. Sgt. F. G. Corner; Sgts. R. C. Goodfellow, J. W. Gray; Corporals R. McLean, A. Cooper, W. Poland, L. Quinn; managing committee, Col. Sgt. F. G. Corner, president; Pte. O. G. Beckett, sec.-treas.; Pte. F. Adams, Pte. W. Craig, Pte. J. O. Hannah.—Gazette, March 1st.

HALIFAX.

The members of the N. C. O.'s Mess R. E. held their annual sleigh drive yesterday. A party of forty proceeded to Bedford in Robinson's teams and there in-

dulged in various amusements. The first item was a billiard match with the usual result—Creagh first, the remainder nowhere. Next on the list came a shooting contest, when Mr. Benoy shone conspicuously. Then came dinner, which was tabled by Host Wilson in his usual thorough manner. After this an adjournment was made to the dance room where lovers of the Terpsichorean art enjoyed themselves immensely until called away by the sweet warbling of various members. Q. M. S. Dagnall, Witham, Corp. Dixon, Messrs. Ryan and Dickenson were in grand voice. Mrs. Cheshire obliged with "Mr. Mulcahy, Esquire," accompanying herself on the piano. The music was duly appreciated and Messrs. Dominico and Antonio are to be congratulated on their performance. Q. M. S. Witham, photographer to the R. E.'s, took several shots at the members en masse and judging from the jollity prevailing the result should be eminently satisfactory. The party left Bedford about 10 p. m., arriving home without any casualty after having had a remarkably good time. The committee, C. S. M. McQueen, Sgt. Hagan and Corp. Summers, were very energetic, particularly the last named.—Evening Mail, Feb. 23.

* * * *

A sergeant of the Leicestershire regiment writes from St. Lucia: "I would like to inform you that the feeling in the Leicestershire regiment is that the the two years served in Halifax is looked upon as the most enjoyable of any station in which the regiment has had the honor of doing garrison duty."

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The agent of the Department of Justice in this city has received an order from the Militia Department, directing him to expropriate the block of land bounded by North Park, Maynard, Cunard streets and Johns lane, for the purpose of erecting thereon a drill shed. The order will be carried out at once and in a short time the new drill shed will be under way.

OTTAWA.

The attention of the Adjutant General of Militia was called to the criticisms on the new "Canadian Manual, Firing and Bayonet Exercises." Col. Powell acknowledged that the book was not perfect, several typographical errors having been discovered in it. The inconsistencies which had been pointed out were, he thought, due to careless proof-reading. The book, it appears, was prepared by a committee of officers in Toronto, and printed there. Evidently, as close a supervision had not been kept when the book was going through the press as should have been. The edition, however, is a small one, and it is not at all unlikely that a new edition will shortly be published, after thorough revision. Speaking with reference to the infantry drill book, Col. Powell pointed out that it is very difficult to get a modern work on drill to suit the Canadian service, as our force has not the modern arm which the imperial forces possess.

* * * *

Three new officers have been appointed to fill vacancies in the Northwest Mounted Police, viz.: Capt. E. Gilpin Brown, to be inspector; Lt. Col. D. W. Deray Williams, to be inspector; Dr. G. Pearson Bell, Qu'Appelle, to be assistant surgeon. Capt. Brown, as an officer in the 92nd Gordon Highlanders, served through the Afghan war, 1878-80; the Boer war, 1881, and the Egyptian war, 1882. In 1884 he left the Imperial service, came out to Canada and served throughout the Northwest rebellion of 1885. Lt. Col. Williams is also an officer of considerable experience, he having commanded the 7th Battalion of Canadian militia during the Northwest rebellion of 1885. Dr. Bell is a master in surgery of the Aberdeen University, and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and has been practising in the Northwest Territories since 1886. Although these gentlemen were not previously connected directly with the N. W. M. P. the Hon. W. B. Ives, resident of the Privy Council, says he has not overlooked merit within the service, he having within the last year promoted two inspectors to be superintendents and three non-commissioned officers to be inspectors. Of the 51 commissioned officers, including the doctors on the force, 21 have been promoted from the ranks.

LONDON.

A handsome lot were the soldier lads who sat around the festive board at the London House on Tuesday eve Feb. 20, the occasion being the annual dinner of C company 7th Fusiliers, and it goes without saying that ample justice was done to the excellent menu provided by mine host. Among the guests were noticed Lt. Taylor, Sgt. Maj. McCrimmon, Col. Sgt. Alley, No. 2; Corp. Price, R. R. C.; Sgt. Alley, No. 2; Corp. Price, R. R. C. I.; Col. Sgt. Fleming, 38th Dufferin Rifles; Sgt. Thomson, No. 1 Co. 27th Batt.; Corp. Woods, 13th Batt.; Col. Sgt. Jacobs, No. 5; Col. Sgt. Hayman, No. 4; Col. Sgt. Freeland, No. 1; ex-Sgt. Craine, Sgt. Milligan, No. 4; Corp. Shillington, No. 4; S. Sgt. McCrimmon and others.

Owing to a sudden call to New York Capt. J. M. Moore was unable to be with his company on this occasion, but his place was admirably filled by Lt. Taylor, seconded by Col. Sgt. Brown, who proved himself on the introduction of the toast list, to be an orator born, not made. "The Queen" was received with the usual honors. "Our Commanding Officer and Staff," were not responded to with the usual speeches, owing to the absence of Col. Payne, who was out of town, but was received with enthusiasm, and "They are jolly good fellows." "Sister Corps" was coupled with the names of Col. Sgt. Fleming, 38th; Sgt. Thomson, 37th; Corp. Price, R.R.C.I., and Corp. Woods, 13th. The "Non-Com. Officers" was coupled with the names of Sgt. Major McCrimmon; Col. Sgt. Hayman, and Staff Sgt. McCrimmon. "Sister Companies" brought out Col. Sgt. Freeland, A; Col. Sgt. W. H. Allen, B; Col. Sgt. Hayman, D; Col. Sgt. Jacobs, E; and Sgts. Milligan and Shillington, D. Ex-Sgt.

Craine, B, and W. C. Tackaberry responded to the toast of "Our Guests."

"The Ladies" was ably responded to by Sgts. Shillington and Spicer, both of whom showed by their replies how able they were to champion such a cause, especially Sgt. Shillington. "The Press" and "Our Host" were in turn duly honored and the company broke up well pleased at the success of the entertainment. During the evening the company was favored with some very fine selections by Col. Sgt. Jacobs, Sgt. Thomson, Corp. Beecher, Sgt. Milligan, Pte. Charlton, Sgt. Todd and Privates Coppinger and Garside and Corp. Price.

* * * *

Military circles in town have lately been thrown into a flutter of excitement by the sudden and unexpected resignation of Lt. Col. Payne, 7th Fus. In losing him the 7th has lost a good soldier and a true man, and a doubt has been expressed in some quarters whether his equal can be secured to succeed him. Although only in command for the last two years, he succeeded in raising the efficiency of the 7th from 84 1-2 in 1892 to 82 1-2 in 1893. But owing to business which will call for his absence from town for the next eight or nine months he decided to resign. On the street the names of several are mentioned as his successor, but I can truly say that it is not yet known who will succeed him.

* * * *

The result of the 7th Fus. Morris Tube Association has proved that the 7th can shoot indoors as well as out, as it is a weekly event to put on 24 or 25 out of 25, standing, kneeling or prone. The spoon winners so far this season are: Pte. Robson, B Co., 8; Major Hayes, Pte. Goodwin, B Co.; Lt. Allison, C Co.; Corp. Erskine, D Co.

* * * *

Lt. Col. W. De Ray Williams, formerly of the 7th Fus., was in town last week on his way to the Northwest to take the position of inspector on the Northwest Mounted Police Force, stationed at Regina. Lt. Col. Williams commanded the 7th Fus. during the Northwest campaign of 1885, retiring soon after, to take a position under the Government in the Agricultural Department at Ottawa.

* * * *

The officers of the 27th Batt. have succeeded in organizing a bugle band to accompany the battalion to camp next summer. It is under the tutelage of ex-Bugle Major Fisher, R.R.C.I.

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The 29th Batt. will be worthy of the pride of Waterloo County when it goes to camp next June. The Berlin companies will be especially brilliant looking, as since last camp they have been fitted out with new uniforms and helmets. This battalion, which used to be looked down upon by the other corps, is fast becoming one of the most popular among the rural battalions of the district.

* * * *

Pte. Williams, who deserted some 18 months ago from No. 1 Co. R.R.C.I., having given himself up, was tried lately

by court martial and received 56 days' cells, 14 of which was remitted.

A busy time they are having of it just now at the barracks here. No. 1 is Co. nearly full strength, while the number of attached officers. N. C. O.'s and men reach 45. Between the new drill and the attached things are kept going along lively.

It is rumoured that Major Bentic, of the 7th Batt., does not desire promotion to the command of the regiment. The officer mentioned as likely to succeed Lt. Col. Payne is Major A. M. Smith, formerly connected with the 7th, and a very popular officer. His appointment would be received with general favour among members of the battalion and the citizens generally.

BERLIN.

The annual regimental meeting of the 29th Batt. was held last evening in the Walper House. There were present the following officers: Lieut. Col. Cowan, Major Cooper, Capt. Kerr, Capt. Bowman, Capt. McCallum, Lieut. Futher, Lieut. Martin, Lieut. Bowman, Lieut. Osborn, Sgts. Breechbill, Keffer and Hall.

The minutes of the last regimental meeting were then read.

Moved by Capt. Kerr, seconded by Capt. McCallum, that the minutes be adopted as read. Carried.

The financial statement for 1893 was then read.

Moved by Capt. McCallum, seconded by Capt. Bowman, that the financial statement be adopted. Carried.

Moved by Capt. Kerr, seconded by Capt. McCallum, that Captains Bowman and Ellis and Lt. Osborn compose the Regimental Committee. Carried.

Moved by Capt. Bowman, seconded by Major Cooper, that Capt. McCallum, Honorary Major Cranston and Lt. Limpert compose the Band Committee. Carried.

Moved by Capt. McCallum, seconded by Lt. Osborn, that Major Cooper, Q.M. Simpson, Capt. Kerr, Lieuts. Bowman, Fox, Martin, Goodhall, Hampton and Futher compose the Mess Committee. Carried.

Moved by Lt. Bowman, seconded by Lt. Martin, that Lts. Osborn and Limpert and Captains McCallum, Kerr and Bowman compose the Rifle Committee. Carried.

Arrangements were made to purchase balance of helmets, also to get plates, spikes and chain straps for helmets.

The battalion go to camp at London in June.

The meeting adjourned at 10.30 o'clock p. m.—Record, Feb. 13th.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS

It is, says the Volunteer Service Magazine, just about twelve months since the long service decoration was bestowed on some of our volunteer officers, and now it is expected that the Royal warrant announcing the grant of a similar decoration to non-commissioned officers and men of twenty years service and upwards will shortly be issued. The estimated number of recipients is about

10,000. There are some 2,500 men in the volunteer force who wear six stars, signifying upwards of thirty years' service, while the number who have served twenty years and upwards exceeds 7,000; but as the decoration is to be conferred alike upon past and present members of the force, the total number of recipients may be expected to reach 10,000.

Attention has recently been drawn to an invention by Capt. John Ewart, R.A., late adjutant of the 1st Banffshire Artillery Volunteers, who has just perfected what he calls an "improved means for using miniature cartridges for rifle practice." The real object of the invention is to provide for regulation target practice being carried out in the least possible space, as well as at little expenditure. The Morris Tube idea is, in this case entirely left out, and much consequent trouble avoided. Capt. Ewart's contrivance is much more simple, and from this very fact it is hoped, will prove more serviceable. It is simply this. A strong metal cylinder, or "carrier," is provided of exactly the same size as an ordinary cartridge, and therefore fitting correctly into the bore of the rifle. This cylinder again has provision formed in it, or attached to it, for a miniature cartridge to the front end of which an ordinary full-sized bullet is secured, the whole representing an ordinary cartridge. The extreme simplicity of the design will commend itself to all rifle-men, as, in effect it is very much like using an ordinary cartridge. Moreover there is no tube, and the bullet is full-sized, so that the later fits the grooves of the rifle in the ordinary way, thus obviating all danger of "blocking up."

The Revenge, having now completed her trials, is to be brought forward for commissioning, and will, as already reported, hoist the pennant of Captain W. H. May in April to relieve the Rodney. This latter ship will then go to the Mediterranean to relieve the Dreadnought. When this change has taken place the Channel Squadron will consist of four high freeboard battleships, the Royal Sovereign, Empress of India, Resolution and Revenge, while all the low freeboard "Admirals," with the exception of the Benbow, will then be up the Straits. The Mediterranean Squadron will therefore comprise ten battleships, the Hood and Ramillies, the Nile and Trafalgar, the Sans Pareil, and the five "Admirals." Two of the Royal Sovereign class, the Royal Oak and Repulse, will still be in reserve. It is probable that in the Channel the Immortality and Narcissus will be relieved by the Gibraltar and Grafton, while the Mediterranean cruisers will be the Edgar and Hawke, Aolus and Spartan, Arctusa and Amphion, and in the smaller classes Barham, Fearless, Scout, Surprise, Gleaner and Skipjack. The fighting strength of the two squadrons as they were ten years ago, will therefore be: Mediterranean, 1884, 6 battleships, 2 cruisers; 1894, 10 battleships, 12 cruisers. Channel, 1884, 6 battleships, no cruisers; 1894, 4 battleships, 4 cruisers.

The Duke of Westminster has expressed himself very much in favour of a volunteer reserve in England. In distributing the prizes to a North of England corps the Duke strongly advocated the utilization of the services of those men who have left the force, but who would, on an emergency, be able and willing to again bear arms in the defence of their country. This movement, it will be recollected, was originated some months ago by that well-known West Riding officer, Lt. Col. Bingham, and the authorities have been strongly urged to permit a reserve to be formed. This, however, they will not do, because they doubt if a volunteer reserve would be of much practical utility.

An officer of H. M. S. Blake has written home as follows from Dominica: "We have visited Antigua, Nevis and Montserrat; Nevis was particularly interesting to me, as the church there contains the registrar of Nelson's marriage; the book itself is in very bad condition, and, if some means be not adopted to preserve it, will soon cease to exist. It ought to be kept in a glass case and not handled, as it would be a thousand pities to lose such an interesting relic. The house where the marriage took place is in ruins."

Some interest attaches to the question of the use of merchant vessels for war purposes. Not more than thirteen vessels at present receive from the Government an annual subvention: They are the Imperial, Campania, Lucania, Majestic, Teutonic, Etruria, Umbria, Aurania, and the P. and O. Victoria, Himalaya, Australia, Arcadia, Oceana, & Britannia; many of the others belonging to the same or other owners, being only held at the disposal of the Admiralty, as vessels which have complied with the desired conditions of sub-division by transverse bulkheads.

Advices have been received at Halifax to the effect that serious trouble, almost amounting to a mutiny, has manifested itself on board Her Majesty's ship Canada, since the vessel was re-commissioned. The Canada is now in the West Indies, and the matter has been kept as quiet as possible. Admiral Sir John Hopkins visited every vessel in the squadron on Christmas day, and was received in the most hearty manner on board all of them, with the single exception of the vessel mentioned. That ship displayed no decorations, nor anything to indicate the advent of the festive season. On each mess table was a tin of water and a plate of ship's biscuits. The admiral was received in absolute silence by the men, and he could obtain no answer to his questions. On Boxing day the Royal Naval sports took place, but no member of the crew of the Canada entered for the contests. It is reported here that the admiral has asked the Admiralty Board to order the Canada home.

The Duke of Connaught has fixed March 14th for a field day in the neighbourhood of Aldershot, in which the Public Schools Volunteers, to the number of 500 of all ranks, will take part, assisted by regular troops from the camp.

With the view of instructing cavalry men to swim their horses across rivers, a large lake is to be constructed at Aldershot and the expenses will be included in this year's estimates.

Pending the appointment of a brigadier, Col. C. Bromhead, C.B., commanding the 24th Regimental District, has assumed temporary command of the South Wales Volunteer Brigade.

Some of the men of the Cameronians, now quartered at Portsmouth, have recently been giving trouble to the civil and military police, and Lt. Gen. Davis has threatened to send the regiment to Portsdown Hill forts unless an improvement takes place. They have also been informed that should this step be found necessary the neighboring villages of Cosham and Porchester will be placed out of bounds. The regiment is chiefly composed of very young recruits, and the Cameronians are anything but popular at Portsmouth just now.

Breech-loading rifles were invented in 1811, but did not come into general use for many years. It is estimated that over 12,000,000 are now in actual service in the European armies, while 3,000,000 are reserved in the arsenals for emergencies.

In the current issue of the English Illustrated Magazine there is an illustrated paper on "The New Navies," by W. Laird Clowes. It takes the form of a conversation between a retired captain, who fondly lingers over the "beauty" of the old vessels, and a gunnery lieutenant (Tompion) of the new school. "She certainly looks as if she could go," admitted the captain, after seeing a picture of the Blake. "Go!" retorted Tompion. "She has the speed of an Atlantic greyhound, and almost the force of a battleship. Go! I should think she can. I'm glad that they sent her over the other day for the New York people to look at. She can do her 25 statute miles an hour. If the Blake and her sister, the Blenheim, were to start simultaneously from points 1,000 miles apart, say Portsmouth and Lisbon, to-morrow morning at breakfast time, their captains might breakfast together at the usual hour on the following morning, and have plenty of time to spare. Steaming in opposite directions, they are capable of approaching one another at the speed of 4,400 feet in a single minute. That is the speed of all but one or two of the very fastest express trains."

It will be a matter of great regret if the brilliant uniform of the Royal Horse Artillery should be lost to the British Army, yet if the scheme which it is understood is now being considered for the reorganization of the Artillery comes to anything, it will disappear. The proposal is to merge the R.H.A. into the R.A., and several advantages would accrue from the incorporation of the two forces; but in view of the fact that the masters of the military wool and web have for years striven with conspicuous success to make uniforms as ugly as possible, everybody who takes an interest in the service would be glad to hear that the scheme has fallen through, and that the well-known uniform of the Royal Horse Artillery has been preserved to us. At present the R. H. A., says the Court Journal, have a numerical superiority of horse, consequently they are able to mount more men and place fewer on the gun carriages, but beyond this there is little difference between a battery of the Royal Horse Artillery and one belonging to the R.A. It is thought that by sharing out the horses, as would of course be done in the event of the two branches of the Artillery being merged into one, a better equalisation would be effected, and there would be further advantages in a simplification of organisation; but surely the objects of the proposed incorporation could be brought about without affecting the individuality of the Horse Artillery. It seems rather strange that the authorities should be dissatisfied with the artillery, considering that it is not so very long ago since it was reorganized.

Congress is ever glad of a pretext for glorifying the American Navy; but now and again fate would seem to decree that this enthusiasm shall be tempered by very serious drawbacks. Just now the authorities are confronted with top-heaviness in at least two gunboats, the Machias and the Castine. To sacrifice them altogether, would tend to establish the oft-repeated charge that the United States is still in the infancy of ship-building; so the doubtful expedient of lengthening the vessels has been decided upon. They have been ordered to proceed to Norfolk, Virginia, where they will be lengthened, and otherwise altered in accordance with the recommendations of the Walker Stability Committee for the removal of top-heaviness.

The late Gen. Mellinet, of the French Army, who has just died, was a total abstainer all his life, and up to the time of his death, which occurred at the age of ninety-five years, was healthy and vigorous.

The death is announced of Maj. Gen. C. Towers-Hilliard, Madras Staff Corps, at the age of 69 years. Gen. Towers-Hilliard entered the Indian army over 50 years ago, and retired in 1879 with honorary rank.

The death is announced in France of Lt. Col. B. F. Domville, retired list, late Royal Horse Artillery, at the age of 51 years. The deceased, who served with distinction in the Afghan Campaign, being mentioned in despatches, entered the army in 1864 and retired in 1891.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Brigadier-General H. H. Kitchener, C. B., Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, to be a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The Duke of Connaught, commanding the Aldershot District, has issued a stringent order regarding the laxity in dress shown by some of the corps under his command. After calling upon the officers commanding to co-operate with him in strictly carrying out the orders of the Army in regard to dress, His Royal Highness points out that the sealed pattern is to be adhered to, and unauthorised articles of clothing are forbidden to be worn—even in their own lines—by officers or men. Officers should set a good example in this respect. Individuals or parties attached to units at Aldershot are to be inspected on their arrival in camp, and a report made through the usual channel if their uniform is not according to regulation. His Royal Highness desires to call special attention to the undermentioned points: The field service cap is only to be worn by officers, staff, and infantry, at manoeuvres, and at night; troops supplied with the round forage cap are to wear the field service cap at manoeuvres, on fatigue and working parties, and in billets; putties are only to be worn when authorised by Army Regulations; collars are not to be worn with the patrol jacket by general officers.

A great deal of attention is now being given to the important matter of route marching, both in the Dublin district and at the Curragh. This is an important part of the training of the infantry soldier, and its importance has long been recognised by Major Gen. Moncrieff at Dublin, and Lord Ralph Kerr at Curragh camp. Indeed, these two officers are fully alive to the advantage of giving the troops under their command plenty of field-training, and a great deal of useful work is carried on both at Dublin and at the Curragh about which the public hear nothing. These two centres are very little behind Aldershot in respect to the thoroughness of the training which the troops receive, and in this matter a great advance has been made since Lord Wolseley assumed the command in Ireland, though it ought in fairness to be said that both Gen. Moncrieff and Lord Ralph Kerr deserve a great deal of credit for the painstaking efforts they make to give the troops under their command a thoroughly practical training. It has been said that Belfast and Cork are very behind hand in this matter, but it must be borne in mind that the general officers commanding at those centres have but a small number of men under their immediate supervision at the district headquarters at Belfast and Cork. At Dublin Gen. Moncrieff has a couple of regiments of cavalry and six battalions of infantry, while at the Curragh and adjoining station of Newbridge Lord Ralph Kerr has at his disposal one cavalry regiment, two horse artillery batteries, two field companies Royal Engineers, and three infantry battalions. The two officers named, therefore, have the means for doing work which the commandants

at Belfast and Cork do not possess.—Belfast News Letter.

Despatches from Sp zia speak of a successful trial made on Thursday of a new submarine boat. The craft is specially adapted for use in warfare, and, under the command of Captain Scoti, when all was ready, immediately disappeared under the water, and thus traversed the entire length of the gulf, returning to the surface in close proximity to the training ship Maria Adelaide, against which it feigned to discharge a torpedo.

The appointment of Adjutant-General of the Bombay Army, vacant by the appointment of General Gatacre to a district command, is likely to be filled, we understand, by Colonel R. L. H. Curteis, late of the Bedfordshire Regiment, who has been an Assistant Adjutant-General on the Bombay Establishment since July, 1890, and was previously Deputy Assistant-General at the Horse Guards.

Not twelve hours old, and yet to have been already knighted with the military order of valour! Surely this was a reward for temerity shown in coming into the world, with the addition of being brave enough to have become a Bulgarian Prince—a by no means too safe position to hold in this world. This small infant Prince Boris is also already in command of the 4th Regiment of Infantry (most applicable title this), 3rd Regiment of Artillery, the 4th Regiment of Cavalry, and is the bearer of the collar of the order of St. Alexander. We hope it is not a weighty one, and that the men in the various regiments will understand His Royal Highness's word of command.

Col. R. Makgill-richton-Maitland, half-pay, late Grenadier Guards, has been promoted major-general by seniority in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Sir C. T. Burne. Colonel Maitland entered the Army in 1859, and obtained his present rank in 1882. He served in command of the 2nd Grenadier Guards when the emute occurred which transferred the battalion to Bermuda.

Rear-Admiral Markham will haul down his flag and return next month from the Mediterranean. It is understood that he will be succeeded by Rear-Admiral A. T. Dale.

According to the Army and Navy Journal (New York), nine ships of the United States Navy—the Columbia, Marblehead, Cincinnati, Montgomery, Boston, Raleigh, Marion, Atlanta and Alert—will be ready for commission between now and April 1; but, unless Congress comes to the assistance of the Secretary by increasing the enlisted force, it is probable that not more than one half of these vessels can be assigned to stations. The enlisted naval force of the United States is now bearer its full quota than at any time for years, but it still falls far short of the actual number required to give American war ships their full complement. Many of the larger vessels now on stations are short of blue-jackets allowed ships of their class. Two bills are now before Congress providing for the increase of the Navy. They have been considered in committees only, and so far no concerted action has been taken, looking to their adoption. At the Navy Department it is regarded as uncertain whether they will become effective in time to fit out the new vessels, and the chances are against their adoption at all. An appropriation would be necessary to enlist the additional number of men; and, in the opinion of our contemporary, any bill carrying money to make it effective is highly probable to meet with disapprobation at the hands of the present Congress.

The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)

now at Bawul Pindi, are to relieve the 7th Dragoon Guards in Egypt at the end of this year.

According to the Figaro a retired officer of the French Navy has invented a new rifle which is said to be much superior to any weapon of its kind yet known. The rifle can fire either slowly or very rapidly two kinds of explosive bullets, which are so light that a hundred weigh only 1,200 grammes. The effects are reported to be terrible, the projectiles having immense penetrating power.

The Siecle publishes a violent article against England. It says that the official relations between France and England are good, but those of the two peoples are strained, and the time for an explanation is approaching. In Newfoundland, Egypt, Madagascar, the Sudan, and Siam, England has been acting as if the world belonged to her. France is wrong in not having raised her voice sufficiently high, following the re-establishment of the equilibrium which has come after the fetes at Cronstadt and Toulon, as if one is afraid of being in the right.

The Petite Republique states that the War Minister has decided that canned provisions for the army are in future to be exclusively of French manufacture. Hitherto Americans have had a monopoly of the supply, and many complaints have been made of the inferior quality of the provisions. The new arrangement will increase the cost to the country by about 130 per cent., and it will be necessary to ask for a supplementary credit to meet the difference. On the other hand it is pointed out that over six millions of francs will remain in France instead of going to America.

Advices have been received of a tragedy which has produced a great sensation in military circles at Kingston, Jamaica. It appears that before the West Riding Regiment left Halifax for Jamaica two years ago a staff sergeant of the corps married the daughter of a Halifax tradesman. The young woman accompanied her husband to Jamaica, but her married life was unhappy and she returned home. A short time ago she received the news that her husband had married another woman at Kingston. Upon hearing this she wrote to her husband, stating that she was about to return to Jamaica to institute proceedings against him for bigamy. One night the sergeant was missed by his messmates, and on his quarters being broken into the dead bodies of himself and the woman he married in Jamaica were discovered. The woman, it appeared, had been poisoned, and the sergeant had committed suicide by shooting himself with a rifle.

The historical warloop of the United States, the Kearsarge, has been claimed by the sea after having been afloat just upon 33 years. According to despatches received on Thursday at the Navy Department in Washington, and issued to the public by Secretary Herbert with praiseworthy promptitude, the old time vessel was proceeding to Hayti and Nicaragua, when, during a somewhat heavy fog in the Caribbean Sea, late on Friday night last, she ran on to what is known as the Roncador Reef, and shortly afterwards began to break up. She has, it appears, since become a total wreck; but beyond the fact that she was always associated in men's minds with the admittedly invaluable achievement of cutting short the destructive career of the Confederate cruiser Alabama. Happily, there has been no loss of life in connection with the disaster. The Kearsarge was built in 1861 at Kittery, and had a tonnage of 1,550, and possessed engines

of 840 horse-power, but was never able to attain anything beyond an eleven knot speed. The Alabama, which was sunk by the Kearsarge off Cherbourg, on June 19th, 1864, after a hot fight, was, it is now recalled, a well-armed steamer of 900 tons built in England.

The Duke of Cambridge, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, has recently given serious consideration to the moral condition of certain seaport and garrison towns, and has come to the conclusion that "considerable improvement could be effected by a resolute effort at amelioration, and a recourse to the powers given by existing statutes." In a letter to generals commanding military centres His Royal Highness expresses the opinion that the advantages given to a district by the U. D. Act when in force, coupled with a hope that the Act may be reimposed, has to some extent made both the civil and the military authorities disposed to overlook the mischief at which that Act was directed. He draws attention to the great powers given to local authorities by the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885, and also by the Licensing Acts, and requests commanding officers to co-operate with the magistrates in a serious effort to "free the towns from the reproach attaching to them, by determined police action, and by enforcing the provisions of the Act in question." By this it is hoped that both the social and moral position of the soldier will be greatly improved.

The death has taken place of the oldest Volunteer in South Wales. This veteran was Col. Sgt. Howells, of the Milford Haven Company, 1st V. B. Welsh Regiment. The deceased was one of the first to enrol in the local corps early in 1859; he in due course rose to be colour-sergeant of his company, a rank he had borne for twenty-four years at the time of his death.

STATE OF THE NAVY.

Mr. Edmund Robertson, M. P., Civil Lord of the Admiralty, visited Dundee on Thursday, and in the evening attended a banquet given by the Lord Provost of the city. Responding to the toast of "The Navy," Mr. Robertson said Lord Spencer's administration has been attacked, but the best defence is a plain statement of the position to which it succeeded in 1892, and of the position in which it now stands. Let me point out, then, in the first place, that we have had to bear the main burden of the Naval Defence Act of 1889. The gist of that measure was that for a period of five years it sanctioned a special expenditure of ten million pounds in addition to the normal expenditure of the period. The ships were to be built in five years, but the payment was spread over seven years. The late Government went out of office in 1892, leaving fully half of the ten millions to be paid by their successors. Moreover, on us has fallen the whole of the consequential burdens. If you build more ships you want more men, and the manning of the fleet is not the least of the problems we have inherited. You want more docks, and bigger docks, and the Naval Defence Act made no provision for these, nor for harbour improvements. In the Department of Works, for which I am more particularly responsible, I must warn you that you will have to face the prospect of very serious expenditure. I claim, then, that so far as the Naval Defence Act was a special effort, we shall have borne the brunt of it. Turning to our own policy, I have to protest against some of the fallacious assumptions of recent controversy. It has been said that until outside agitation forced our hands we took no steps towards a further programme which should secure our position

in relation to foreign navies. It has been said by Mr. Ballour, among others, that this was a Unionist agitation, and it has been assumed that because we have published no programme, therefore we have none. These are all snares and delusion. (Applause.) The agitation, such as it has been, began in the leading weekly paper supporting the Government, and in that paper, and in the Daily News, have appeared by far the strongest and best-informed articles on the needs of the navy. Not even the Times has been more strenuous in its demands upon us than these organs of Radical opinion. (Applause.) But I assert that the Admiralty has been in advance of them all, as it was bound to be. Lord Spencer and his colleagues have for a year had under careful consideration the number and types of ships to be added to the navy. With reference to the estimates of the coming year, when we took office we found the Naval Defence Act in full swing, large liabilities outstanding on uncompleted ships, and the estimates for 1892-93 framed by our predecessors on a certain scale. We decided, after consideration, to adopt and extend the policy of our predecessors, concentrating our efforts on the more rapid advancement and earlier completion of naval defence ships, but at the same time taking care to lay down a certain number of new vessels to provide for the continuous and economical employment of men engaged in the national dockyards for the year, 1893-94. The Board practically continues on the same lines as their predecessors, voting a still larger cash provision than was made for new construction in 1892-93. This provision embraced the commencement of two battleships and two cruisers of unrivalled size and fighting qualities, besides three smaller cruisers and two smaller vessels. (Applause.) In addition, it included fourteen torpedo boat destroyers. Various circumstances delayed the beginning of the work of the large ships. The loss of the Victoria raised questions which required time for their solution, and so postponed the commencement of the battleships. The design of the cruisers involved careful preliminary investigation into the armaments, protection, etc., most suitable for them. The result was a later date for beginning these vessels, but they are all on hand and are being pressed forward at the present time. (Applause.) The smaller cruisers, on the other hand, were pressed forward more rapidly than we had at first intended and, what is still more important, torpedo boat destroyers—a most valuable and much needed form of defence against a newly developed scheme of attack—were increased in number. At the present time, 43 vessels of this class are on hand, instead of the 20 contemplated when the estimates of 1893-94 were framed. Briefly summarised, therefore, the position at present is that, although the programme has been varied in 1893-94, it has been realised for all practical purposes, and is now in full process of execution. There is a general agreement, moreover, that at the present moment, in ships completed and ready for survey, we stand in an excellent position; but foreign nations have a larger number of ships on the stocks than we have, and this demands immediate action on our part. We can build more rapidly, as well as more cheaply, than other nations, only we must never begin too late. This fact Lord Spencer's Board has recognised, and the programme for 1894-95 will show that there is no intention of forfeiting, or even risking in the last degree, our relative position. (Applause.) Estimates for 1894-95 will soon be published, and will, I hope and believe, give satisfaction to all rational advocates of a strong navy. These estimates simply indicate the year's work and liabilities arising therefrom. They do not contain the full programme, care-

fully elaborated in all its details, but not published or intended to be published at present. Publication has been urged upon us; and steps have been taken to enforce publication; there are, however, good reasons for refusing these requests. The Naval Defence Act programme was published, and showed what was intended for five years as a maximum. France and Russia at once took steps to increase their expenditure, and to keep pace with us, so that the net result of this great effort leaves us relatively much as before in ships built and building. A programme there must be for continued and efficient administration. If it is not published there is a possibility of its being made the standard of what other nations will do. We watch their proceedings; we can build more quickly, and so we can always keep a lead in completed ships besides choosing types that will outclass those they have laid down. (Applause.) Obviously this is a common-sense and safe policy. It secures our supremacy on the seas, and leaves freedom of action to the Admiralty; but it demands the provision of the means requisite for the work to be done in order to fulfil the requirements laid down by the responsible professional advisers of the Government, and from this burden, even in times like the present, the country will not recoil. (Applause.)—Naval and Military Record.

THE KHEDIVÉ OF THE SIDAR

The Khedive's version of the recent "frontier incident" related by his Highness himself to a gentleman, and who has given the Daily Telegraph full permission to make it public, is to the following effect:—"Before I went to Upper Egypt I asked my Minister if there were any objection to my taking Maher-Pasha, the Under-Secretary for War, with me, as Schudi Pasha, the War Minister, being a civilian, was not sufficiently acquainted with military affairs. The Ministers said there was no objection whatever. I, therefore, took Maher to accompany me, giving him orders not to interfere or put himself forward unless asked."

The Khedive first reviewed the army at Wady Haifa. With the Camel Corps the cavalry, and the artillery, his Highness was pleased, and he expressed his satisfaction to both the English and native officers. But the second battalion marched past badly, and the Khedive observed to the English officer in command: "I am sorry to find that the marching of this battalion is not as good as the others; but I trust that your men will soon do their work better." This was said in the presence of General Kitchener, who replied to the Khedive that there was no fault to find with the battalion, and that his Highness's comment would discourage the men. To this his Highness retorted, that being Khedive and Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian army he had a right to express his opinion, but that his remark was so trifling that there was no necessity for any further discussion on the subject.

His Highness subsequently embarked on board the steamer, accompanying General Kitchener, and continuing on good terms with him. At Assouan the Khedive inspected the hospital, and was much pleased with it, but after returning to the steamer, his doctor, Comanos Pasha, told him the situation was faulty. As the surrounding land was irrigated, the site of the hospital must be damp, and, he added, a native officer had reported privately to him (Comanos Pasha) that the English doctor in charge was negligent and inattentive. On hearing this the Khedive complained to General Kitchener, who replied that his Highness was no

judge of the matter, as he changed his opinion so suddenly; and at the same time, the Sirdar asked whether the Khedive would express his satisfaction at the state of the troops in a general Army Order, the General adding that if the Khedive refused the English officers at Wady Haifa would resign, and that no other officers in England would care to replace them. His Highness replied that he had expressed his opinion up to a certain limit, and he would not go beyond it.

General Kitchener, speaking in a high tone of voice, responded, "I do not think you have any limit in this case," at the same time tendering his resignation. The Khedive thereupon told General Kitchener that he would not allow him to speak in this manner, and advised him to think over the matter. His Highness added that there was no necessity for further discussion on the subject; but he hoped the Sirdar would withdraw his resignation, because if once accepted could not be withdrawn.

General Kitchener then withdrew his resignation, a quiet talk ensued, and the Khedive requested the Sirdar to return to Wady Haifa, to smooth over difficulties with the officers there, but should any officer insist upon leaving the army to telegraph to him at once, and he would put matters straight.

General Kitchener at once left for Wady Haifa, promising his Highness that nothing more should be heard about what had taken place. Two days later, however, the Khedive received a telegram from the Prime Minister, Reaz Pasha, informing him that Lord Cromer had heard from General Kitchener that the dispute had taken place, that things were serious, and that the (Riaz Pasha) was coming to meet his Highness to give explanations.

When the Khedive heard from Riaz what promises had been made to Lord Cromer by his Ministers he was annoyed, and blamed them for having made an promise without first hearing his side of the story. His Highness, however, consented to do what Lord Cromer asked.

When Lord Cromer is better the Khedive will explain the whole affair to his Excellency.

THE STUDY OF MINOR TREATIES.

CAPTAIN LOUIS TEBUTT, IN THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE GAZETTE.

It would appear very presumptuous on the part of a junior volunteer officer to lay down any definite course for the study of minor tactics. These thoughts are some that have occurred while attempting to make oneself a proficient in the art of using small bodies of troops that would be the lot of most volunteer company officers to command.

What drill is to the private, tactics is, or ought to be, to the officer. Tactics comprise a very wide range, and it is only to minor tactics that these thoughts have reference. Drill has only one direct use, viz., the arranging that certain words and signals mean that certain actions are to be executed. Words of command are only abbreviated explanations of actions to be performed. It has other indirect uses, principal among them being the inculcating of obedience and discipline. Drill should become embodied in the nature of a soldier, and the word of command given and obeyed intuitively. In the same way tactics should become to the officer the natural carving out of the right action at the right time.

In the stress of danger in front of the enemy, officers, even as men, have not the

same power of closely reasoning out what is the right thing to do, even if they have the time allowed them. Men are taught to obey implicitly, and officers must spontaneously understand two things: 1st, what they are generally ordered and expected to do; 2nd, how to do it. Tactics should teach us the first, and tactics plus drill the second.

How far are we volunteer company officers learning not to be found wanting? Are we going the right way to qualify for the supreme moment when our country, the lives of our men and ourselves, will depend to a certain extent on being ready with the right decision? A wrong decision may mean death to those entrusted to our care and command. Not lives laid down for the good of our country, but lives needlessly wasted through our own incapacity. It surely behoves us to do our best to prepare ourselves, for with the greatest amount of preparation, every officer will be very far short of perfection. It must have been often in our minds that there is a great gap between drill and tactics. Many officers can move their men fairly well, and many can form the right judgment as to a certain military situation, but how many can combine the two, crystallising the sound judgment and the tactics of the situation into words and issue the right orders, not *μολονταί ἀρυσσένου αἰχμῆς εἰ τὰς ἀπείρατος* or bothering the men's minds with a lot of unnecessary phrases.

This missing link one might call practical minor tactics. Often an officer understands the principles of outpost work, and yet cannot tell off a picket correctly or make a sentry understand his duties. It is easy to say the advance guard must turn an occupied obstacle, and yet how difficult to practically carry it out with your men without hindering the column behind you *οὐκ ἴσασιν ἑσθέρωνται ἡμῶν ἀπείρατος εἰς τὸ ἐπίσπασμα* to country side.

Volunteer officers are accustomed to issue certain orders in stiff parade movements, but if pitch-forked into the field would hardly know how to make use of the drill they had been taught, and yet the whole intent of it is for that purpose. One cannot feel it is a pity we are taught such a lot of unnecessary drill movements. Even our new drill book includes square formation with the note that it is only to be used against savages. And yet many volunteer battalions practice it just as if we are likely to fight зуиs and Hottentots on the Dorking Hills. But are not the echelon movements about as antiquated? One cannot find a single book in which various forms of attack are propounded (and there are many) in which it is necessary for the captains to know what to do on the command "Advance in echelon at ten paces distance from the right."

Drill we must have, but let it be in extended order in battle formation, and in battalion let it be formation for attack as a flank battalion, and carry it out exactly as the march past; we shall not want echelon formations and squares then. This would reduce the gap somewhat between what we practice in principle, and what we shall have to do in time of war. In judging of the progress we are making in tactics the same scale applies to the judging of a nation.

At first it is necessary to govern by rule, and when the rules are understood principles can be studied. Rules cramp and hem; principals allow certain latitude, and, to a certain extent, judgment. A man even though his judgment is weakened by fear and the horrible sights of war round about him, and is deprived of his best power of reasoning, will still do the right thing and give the right order. It is his nature and his habit which govern him.

There are many ways of learning minor tactics. The best school is no doubt war itself. But it is doubtful if war would teach all that is necessary. An example will show this. The first line of attack takes up only one third of the troops; two captains only in a battalion will, if they

survive, have learnt the leading of the forcing line. It would require four attacks before every captain would have that opportunity, and a number of campaigns before he had gone through the series of advance and rear guards, outposts, and attack and defence of positions. But no doubt actual warfare would give the finishing touch to an officer who was well versed and studied in peace time in a manner otherwise impossible of attainment.

There are many ways of learning tactics:—

1. Field manoeuvres against a marked or actual opponent.

2. So-called war games in the open. Reconnaissance can also be included when undertaken with some fixed idea.

3. War games.

4. Working out tactical problems such as are sometimes set in the promotion exams.

5. Reading text books or manuals, such as detailed histories of actual or imaginary engagements.

Let us consider each of the above methods, beginning from the last:—

Tactics as taught in books are rather dry. Rules are laid down, principles enunciated, and examples quoted; but the realities of war cannot be put down on paper, and can only be partially imagined even by those of the most vivid imagination. Examples quoted to illustrate certain principles add much to the interest and usefulness, but being drawn for the most part from the periods previous to the breech-loader are not as striking to us young officers who only know of a rifle deadly at 1,000 yards. Then, unless aided with maps and a good map reader, it is difficult to form even a rough picture of what did take place. Besides maps do not show hedges or the height of the crops, and many other things of vital tactical importance. But as long as the examinations remain as they are, we must and shall study tactics from the text books. As Prince von Hohenlohe in his much read and admired "Letters on Artillery, Infantry, and Cavalry" mentions, as the inspection, so the training. So with us, as long as the examination is conducted on paper, so long will text books be the principle study of most volunteers.

In the German army much less is made of book tactics. The power of quickly and energetically solving some simple military problem in the field, or even on a map is what is required. The problems being very simple and suitable to the rank of the examinant. Lieutenants are not supposed to handle mixed bodies of troops, or captains to solve questions which are more strategical than tactical.

Still, text books contain the foundation of tactical knowledge; and more so in the volunteers than in the regular army. The composition of a brigade, and the number of wagons in a field battery, may be learned from observation by a regular officer in the course of his professional work, but this is not the case with a volunteer. There are many good books, but it is best to digest one well than to turn over the pages of many. At any rate till one has acquired a certain elementary knowledge it is no use going on and reading accounts of engagements real or imaginary.

Learning tactics by the study of certain imaginary combats has not received the attention that it has in Germany. After every manoeuvre in Germany all officers have to write a report of the day's proceedings as far as they are concerned. Also in the period of field training it is necessary for the company or battalion to set many problems. This encourages that class of literature, it being very necessary for all German officers to have considerable imagination to understand correctly what is going on around them, and to provide work for their company during the period of field exercise.

The books written by General Verdi du Venois, the supposed inventor of the war game, are extremely interesting, but rather

too high game for us company officers: to go in for. There are several others, but unfortunately they are not accessible to one without a good knowledge of German. The "Conduct of a Contact Squadron," translated from the French of Captain Bien-sin, is just the book we want, if only it were suitable for infantry instead of cavalry.

There was published in Berlin, two years ago, a book of great interest and use, but it has remained untranslated. The title is "Im Felde," or "On Service." It is an imaginary account of the experiences of a company officer, and one learns a good deal of the nature of modern warfare in reading it. The importance of fatigue, food, and covering are necessarily a large portion of the book, but that is also the case in war. We want some imaginary example of a few day's warfare in the south or east of England worked out and made accessible to all volunteer officers. We could then visit the spot ourselves, and notice the influence of hedges and the enclosed nature of the ground. It is a striking fact that we who pride ourselves on being a practical nation should examine our officers only in book knowledge. The Germans, whom we accuse of being rather pedantic theorists, examine their officers in the open. A lieutenant is given a section (zug) and is told to act under a certain supposition, and the energy and knowledge he shows in forming his judgment and carrying it out are the points which determine his success or failure. Great stress is laid on the decision and energy shown and is sure to receive attention.

There are other books which are very useful, viz., those that take up some battle or engagement and detail it with the greatest care and exactitude. Fortunately there are a number in our own language, and several in German.

CORRESPONDENCES.

THE ADVANCE UNDER UN- ■ AIMED FIRE. ■

To the Editor of the "Army and Navy Gazette."

Sir,—Your anonymous correspondent "A. B. C. D." appears to have jumped somewhat hastily to conclusions in his contemptuous criticism on my letter under the above heading. He appears, for some reason or other, to assume that any views which are not held by him must necessarily be "bosh," and, with more frankness than courtesy, does not hesitate to say so. It is much to be desired, in discussions on tactical subjects carried on by officers, that such objectionable expressions as "bosh," "ballyhooly," "What in the name of common sense does he mean," &c., &c., should not be used. They are mere words, meaningless, and of no value as argument. Nowadays we want reasons; mere assertions and words are of no value, and can do no good. Such a style of discussion, it is to be hoped, will soon be obsolete. Your correspondent has not apparently thought it necessary to bring forward any arguments in support of his strong condemnation of my letter; at least the only approach to any argument which I can find is the following:—"Does he suppose that the enemy, busily engaged with Ballyhooly, can fire up into the clouds at nothing, so as to range 1,500 yards in the rear?" It surely cannot be meant by "A. B. C. D." that the enemy, "busily engaged with Ballyhooly," as he calls it, will fire as if on the ranges, yet his query would lead one to suppose so. In 1870 it is said

to have taken 1,200 bullets on a general average to kill, and 300 to wound a man. What became of the 299 which hit nobody? In "A Midsummer Night's Dream" there is a good deal told of men lying on their stomachs blazing up into the blue, which may account for some of the 299. In a description of Infantry fighting at Woerth, to be found in "The formal Attack of Infantry," the narrator states, "I saw no actual enemy, but we kept up uninterruptedly a very hot fire. We now again went forward, after having calmed the men as much as possible." It is to be presumed that these bullets fell somewhere, and helped to contribute their part to the rain of unaimed fire which "A. B. C. D." scoffs at. Von Sckeriff, in reference to the advance of the second line, says, "At this period, the fire both aimed and unaimed, will be so intense upon the whole space, and (unless led to concentrate itself by the assailant's adoption of particularly unskillful formations in mass) so equally spread and in a manner so impossible to calculate," &c. He had seen what he speaks of, so presumably is entitled to some credit. Clausewitz and Von der Goltz like wise appear to disagree with "A. B. C. D.," as the following quotation may exemplify (p. 107 The Nation in Arms):—Clausewitz has left us, in the second volume of his work upon war, an excellent sketch of the nature of the different zones which surround the arena of action, which runs as follows:—"If we accompany a novice to the battlefield, as we approach it even the louder roar of the artillery alternates with the howling of the bullets, which now attract the attention of the inexperienced to it. The balls begin to strike into the ground before and behind us," &c., (unaimed fire). "The shrapnels rattle in roofs and fields, cannon-balls whistle in all directions by us and above us, and the frequent whistling of bullets is heard. A step further to the troops, to the Infantry, that has endurance. Here the air is teeming with hissing bullets, which make known their presence by the short sharp sound with which they fly an inch off ear, head, and life," &c. Von der Goltz comments, "This sketch is in these days only too true; only, in consequence of the greater range of modern firearms, the zones are considerably broader. The increase are considerably broader. The increased precision of the fire has made also the impressions greater. With the shocks and sheaves of our weapon of precision, the thickest rain of bullets of olden times cannot for one moment compare." Clausewitz and Von der Goltz had both seen what they speak of, and their opinions are usually supposed to be of some account. If "A. B. C. D." will think the question out a little more he will probably cease to scoff at the phrase "rain of unaimed fire," or to argue that "the enemy busily engaged with Ballyhooly" will not loose off a sufficient number of unaimed bullets to cause a "rain of unaimed fire" which will make it pretty wet for the troops in rear. As your correspondent from his signature appears to have a fondness for the A. B. C. of tactics, I will formulate according to his own letters the position which I do maintain in common, I fancy, with most Infantry officers, and which I defy him to upset by argument:—(A.) That as, owing to the great improvement in Artillery, it will play a decisive part in the next war, an overwhelming Artillery is a necessity for us, who, owing to our small numbers, cannot afford the prohibitive losses of frontal attacks against unshaken Infantry,

and yet mean to attack. (B.) That as the first line approaches the enemy's position the leading characteristics will be increasing confusion, constant loss of leaders and changes of command and a forced mingling of units as the closing to flanks or centre can no longer be carried out, the whole summed up in the word "pell-mell," and that practice in overcoming this confusion and disorder, in fighting in "regulated disorder" is fire-discipline. (C.) That the troops in rear of the first line must be kept in close order as much and as long as possible; the formations adopted must be regulated chiefly, not so much by the impossible hope of avoiding loss under the rain of unaimed fire as by the best means to preserve the offensive spirit and the forward impulse of those who remain. (D.) That the maxim of Sunwarof still holds good, "the weapon itself is nothing, the man behind it is everything," and that therefore moral considerations always have been and always will be supreme.

Lieut. 1st Gordon Highlanders.

STEWART MURRAY

Sir Fred. Middleton's Suppression of Rebellion in the North-West Territories of Canada, 1885.

By General Sir Fred. Middleton.

Continued.

Poundmaker opened the ball by making a long oration, embellished with allegories and the usual Indian flowers of speech. The gist of it was that he knew little of what was going on, that he had done his best to keep his young braves quiet, and that now he had come to make his peace, which he seemed to think was very praiseworthy of him. Several braves followed him, but it was difficult to understand what they were driving at. At last a squaw came forward and wanted to make a speech, but I objected, saying that, like the Indians themselves, we did not admit women to our councils in war time, and that I could not listen to her. When this was translated to her, the dirty but crafty old woman shrewdly remarked that we ourselves were ruled by a woman. In answer, I allowed that such was the case, but pointed out that our gracious Queen only spoke on war matters through her councillors, among whom were no women. The old lady did not seem to see it, and she was dragged away, grumbling loudly, by some of her friends. Poundmaker kept a dignified silence during this little interlude. After the braves had all finished I made a short speech, in which I pointed out the ingratitude of the Indians, who had been well treated by the white men, in joining the halfbreeds in rebellion, and that now, when they heard of the defeat and capture of Riel, they came in with lies in their mouths begging for peace. I then went on to say that, in obedience to orders from the Government, I should arrest Poundmaker and four of his braves, hearing the curious names, when translated, of Lean-man, Yellow-mud-blanket, Breaking-through-the-ice, and White-bear, and that the rest could return to their reserve, first giving up the men who had committed two deliberate murders of white men a short time before. Upon this, a brave, wearing an European woman's straw hat with ribbons, stepped out of the semicircle, and, sitting at my feet, which he grasped with his two hands, confessed to one of the murders. Strangely enough, this man's name, when translated, was "the man without blood." Another Indian now stepped out, and, stripping himself to the

wast, advanced and confessed to having committed the other murder. I then declared the pow-wow at an end, and the prisoners were taken off by the mounted police, and eventually sent to Regina. The next day, the 27th, the rest of my force arrived by steamer under command of Lt. Col. Van Straubenzie. A small party of mounted police, under Major Perry, arrived early in the morning from the Alberta Field Force, which he had left at Fort Pitt, where they had arrived on the 25th after great difficulties and arduous work under the command of Maj. Gen. Strange. This party had been sent down the south bank to see if any information could be obtained of Big Bear's people, whom General Strange believed had started off to join Poundmaker. On finding that General Strange was at Fort Pitt, I at once sent off a steamer with supplies for his force, in charge of Captain Belson, putting a company of the 90th, under Captain Forrest, on board, also Major Perry and his party. When nearly half way to Fort Pitt, the steamer was boarded from a canoe by a messenger from General Strange, with the account of an engagement with Big Bear's people, and Captain Bedson, very wisely, having landed the mounted police, returned at once to Battleford for further orders. It appeared that General Strange, having received certain information, had marched from Fort Pitt late in the day on the 27th with all his available force, and came up with the enemy in a strong position on a wooded ridge, from which he drove them, and bivouacked there for the night. The next morning, the 28th, he followed up their trail and came upon them strongly posted, near a hill called "Frenchman's Butte," well covered by a swampy creek. After engaging the enemy for some time, and having three men wounded, it was reported by scouts that the creek was impracticable for his men to cross, so considering his force not strong enough to run any risks, General Strange determined to return to some open ground six miles to the rear, from whence, after a halt of two hours, he fell back to Fort Pitt about five miles distant. It was a pity General Strange had not waited for my arrival, when a more decisive blow might have been struck. He reported favorably of his troops, specially mentioning the names of some of his officers, Brigade Major Dale, late Madras Fusiliers, Major Steel, Mounted Police, Lieutenant Strange, now Royal Artillery, and others. I immediately issued orders for the whole of my column to be ready to leave next day, the 30th, for Fort Pitt, by steamer, except the mounted part, which was to march by the trail on the south bank. Lt. Col. Otter and his column remaining at Battleford. Accordingly the next morning, May 31st, we left in three steamers. The day after, when within six or seven miles of Fort Pitt, Major Dale, Strange's brigade major, came on board with the information that the Alberta Column had left Fort Pitt, and was then camped some twelve miles on its way back to Frenchman's Butte. Major Dale also brought the very welcome intelligence that on his way to me he had come across the Rev. Mr. Quinney, his wife, and some halfbreeds, who had escaped from Big Bear's camp in the confusion caused by the attack at Frenchman's Butte. Maj. Dale left with the escaped prisoners, and a message from me to General Strange that I would be with him next day. On the 2nd I landed, and with a small escort rode off to General Strange's camp, leaving orders for the troops to be disembarked and camped where they were. After a disagreeable ride we found Strange's camp pitched near Big Bear's late position, he having ascertained that morning that the Indians had abandoned it. Indeed, we afterwards heard that they had done so the day after the fight. I found Strange had sent Major Steele to follow the trail of Big Bear, who had apparently gone northwards. He had also sent Mr.

McKay, Hudson Bay Company, with some scouts, by another trail, who afterwards came across a party of Indians with Mrs. Gowanlock, Mrs. Delany and other prisoners, who had separated from Big Bear's party, and whom they took in to Fort Pitt.

We went over Big Bear's late camp, and found that the Indians had made numerous rifle-pits, but they were not all well placed, a good many of them being too far back on the plateau. The gully below was full of carts, broken and sound, harness, old bedding, blankets, bacon, flour, cooking-pots, etc., most of it being loot. This abandonment of, to them, valuable property, showed that the Indians were getting demoralised. General Strange informed me that the trail taken by Major Steele was impassable for teams owing to the very bad muskegs, and he wished to take his force by Union Lake towards Frog Lake. This I agreed to; but I did not believe that the trail was so difficult as was made out. "Norwesters" were still rife, and I determined to follow Steele's trail myself. I returned to my camp by the river and next morning, June 3rd, having directed Van Straubenzie to move our camp to Fort Pitt, I started back to Strange's camp with all the mounted men, viz., Boulton's, Herckmer's, Mounted Police, the Surveyor's Scouts, and Brittonbank's, (late French's) about 225 in all, with Major Short, Captain Peters, Lt. Rivers, twenty-five artillerymen, one gatling, and 150 infantry, selected from each regiment, under command of Major Hughes of the Midlanders, all carried in carts. We had a very hard march, and it rained all day. Found Strange waiting to see me, his force having left for Union Lake.

At 2 a. m. next morning I was awoke with the news that Major Steele had caught up the rear of Big Bear's party crossing a ford, and had killed five of them, three of his own men being wounded. Strange started to catch up his force, and we started at day-break on Big Bear's trail after Major Steele. The first part of the road was terrible, owing to numerous muskegs, but everyone worked hard, and we managed to get the gatling and the teams through, the latter being lightly loaded. On our march, at one of the enemy's halting places, we found a rough mound, which a half-breed scout, we had as interpreter, declared to be a grave. As there were fears that the Indians might kill some of their prisoners, I had given orders that the ground in the vicinity of our march should be well searched for graves, and that they should be all opened, and reclosed carefully if only Indians were found therein. This one was opened in my presence, and was found to contain an Indian chief, who had evidently been badly wounded by a piece of one of Strange's shells. We found more carts here, some with food in them, and a great many furs hidden about, some of which were presented to me by their finders. A silver mug was picked up here with an inscription on it, "Presented by General Rosser to Katie Maclean," which I took charge of and afterwards returned to the young lady herself.

We halted at a point some ten miles from Fort Pitt where the trail from there joined the one we had come by. I heard such awful accounts of the trail ahead that I set men to work to make travoies. A travoie is made by fastening two long poles at one end, the other two ends dragging on the ground, and being kept apart by two transverse sticks on which the load is put. This affair is dragged by a pony, dog, or squaw as the case may be after the Indian fashion, and sent into Fort Pitt for some rough pack saddles that the indefatigable Bedson had prepared for an emergency. I also sent back my infantry, much to their regret, but I felt they would keep us back, and ordered the second gatling to join us under Lt. Rutherford, B. Batory. I sent for the other gatling more to console the mounted force for the loss of the infantry than

for any advantage I expected to derive from it. Though the gatlings had been well and pluckily worked they had proved unsuitable for the kind of fighting we were engaged in. At least our experience at Batoche taught us that the physical as well as the moral effect of the gattling on our enemy had been very slight. During the day three wounded mounted police came in from Major Steele's party, which was camped about eight miles from us. I rode out to the camp and saw Major Steele. He reported that he had come up with what was apparently the rear guard of Big Bear's party packing up their camp. He attacked them, killing several, but the rest escaped across a ford to an island, and having counted seventy-three camp fires at a camp he had passed, he did not think his party strong enough to follow them, and so had retired. He also reported that his horses were mostly played out, having had little to eat, and he spoke most highly of the conduct of his officers, Captain Oswald and Lt. Coryell, non-commissioned officers and men, especially praising the pluck and endurance of the three wounded men. That evening my aid-de-camp, Capt. Freer, informed me that Major Steele and his men were very anxious to turn back and go with us, to which I consented, sending back the most used-up of his men and horses to Fort Pitt. I knew from General Strange that Major Steele and his men had been most useful to him, and they did excellent service with me, Major Steele proving himself to be a most zealous and excellent officer. Ever since we had left Frenchman's Butte our route had been through woods, the weather being very hot. The mosquitoes and flies were terrible; however we all bore it with Christian fortitude, an occasional big "D" excepted!

Steele's report of the road ahead was tolerably favourable, though he thought we might have some difficulty at the ford he had mentioned, so I determined to start with my teams, taking with us the travoies and pack-saddles in case we might want them. We left Travoies camp (as we called it) early next morning, June 6th, picked up Steele's party, and camped at 6 p. m. after a twenty-five mile march, still in the woods, mosquitoes and a large sort of cattle fly called "bulldogs," being fearfully troublesome. We had had considerable difficulty in getting our teams on, but had managed to do so. I sent on in advance the Surveyor's Scouts under Capt. Dennis, with axes, and when they came to a bad part or a stream they bushed or bridged it, so that we were seldom delayed, the party doing their work admirably and skillfully. Believing now that Big Bear and his braves were thoroughly disorganized and might scatter or turn, I sent off orders, before leaving Travoies Camp, to Lt. Col. Otter to leave part of his force at Battleford under command of Major Dawson, 10th Grenadiers—who had not quite recovered from his wound—and to take the rest across the river, move on to Jack-fish Lake, and patrol to the northwest or Squirrel Plain. I also directed Lt. Col. Irvine, at Prince Albert, to cross a mounted party at Carleton, and patrol towards Green Lake, so that with General Strange moving on Beaver River by Frog Lake, and my party moving northwards, it would be difficult for Big Bear to get away. I determined to leave our camp standing here with a small guard, and not take any tents on at all, as it would lighten our teams considerably; and marching at day-break, halted at mid-day near one of the enemy's old camps. We found several broken carts with food, etc., and one of our scouts discovered hid under a large pile of boughs and leaves two carts full of furs, part of which was presented to me. There were more signs, as usual, of the presence of the prisoners in this camp, bits of torn photographs,

lids of work boxes, small pieces of coloured wools tied to branches of bushes, etc. That evening, after doing twenty-five miles we camped on the high ground, overlooking the lake and ford, where Steele had caught the enemy crossing. The lake was a large one, though not shown on our maps, and was known to the half-breeds as Loon Lake, there being numbers of these birds about it. I went down to the ford, passing through the old Indian camp, where more things were left scattered about, with one Indian lying dead, shot through the body. We found the ford quite passable for our teams and gatlings, and next morning we marched early, crossed over safely, and found ourselves on the mainland and not on an island. On our way we passed another lake on our right, and on the ridge of land between the two lakes came across another Indian camping ground with, as usual furs, carts, food, etc., lying about, and three graves which were found to contain three Indians. We found some scraps of paper here with writing on them, saying that the prisoners were all right. Our trail this day was very hilly and tried the draught horses terribly, and it was wonderful to see over what apparently impassable ground we brought our gatlings and teams in safety. The trail conducted us to what we called the "Narrows," being a rapid stream running from one lake to the other, and which the Indians had evidently crossed by means of rafts of wood and rushes. We at once set to work and made a raft to take over the saddles, blankets, etc., and swam the horses over, leaving the teams, gatlings, and twenty-five mounted police on the hither side. We moved on and bivouacked on a wooded ridge, where there were evident signs that the Indians had camped within forty-eight hours. Just below where we halted we found the body of an Indian squaw in a kneeling position. She had a piece of raw hide—"shakanappy," as it is called—round her neck, the ends being fastened to a young tree, and had deliberately strangled herself. We heard afterwards that she had some disease which prevented her walking, and her party having no means of carrying her on, the unfortunate woman committed suicide. Boulton, who had been sent forward, returned with the unpleasant news that the trails of the Indians had entered a muskeg, which was the only way by which we could follow them to the north, not having boats, and that the muskeg would be quite impassable by us. I went forward to judge for myself. A few yards on in the muskeg lay a cart, sunk in over its wheels, and beyond it, on the track taken by the Indians, were strewed bundles, pots, and things dropped by them to lighten their loads. I rode myself into the muskeg, but soon sank to my saddle girths and was extricated with great difficulty. We bivouacked where we were, the night being hot, rainy, and "moskitoeey." Next morning two scouts managed, with great difficulty, to cross the muskeg, nearly losing their horses returning. They reported the enemy's trail as going north, and assured me that we could not cross without losing probably half our horses, and perhaps some men. With such probable consequences in view, and fearing the risk of placing such an obstacle between ourselves and our supplies, I determined to return to Fort Pitt, and from there make my way to General Strange on the Beaver River. The next morning we crossed the Narrows again by a sort of light bridge of faggots and ropes, cleverly made under Capt. Peters' directions, the horses being swum over, and after two days' fatiguing marches arrived at Fort Pitt on the 11th of June. On the 13th I started with the mounted men for Beaver River. Marched thirty-five miles to Frog Lake and pitched camp close to that of the Midlanders under Lt. Col. Williams, whom I had ordered there to support Strange. The settlement had

been completely destroyed, and the Midlanders had buried two or three bodies of white people they had found. The next day we made another march of thirty-five miles and camped near the Hudson Bay Post, being torn to pieces by mosquitoes and flies, though we were better equipped to meet these monsters than before, having gauze veils and linen gauntlets, part of the numerous articles kindly made and sent up to the force by the ladies of Toronto, Ottawa, and other parts of Canada, a great part of which, however, unfortunately went astray or stolen. Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, with the kindly thoughtfulness of her race, also had graciously sent out Dr. Boyd with an extensive medical and surgical outfit, and a large sum of money for distribution, and I received a most kind letter of congratulation on our success from the Marquis of Lorne. The next day, June 15th, after a short march of ten miles, we arrived at General Strange's camp at the Roman Catholic Mission on the Beaver River. We had a pow-wow with some Chippewyan Indians, who had been (unwillingly) with Big Bear, and had got away from him, bringing with them their missionary, Father Le Goff, a very good, worthy man. After some talk it was arranged that two of the Indians should be sent down the river and try and find out where Big Bear was. Capt. E. Palliser arrived to-day to join General Strange's column, after a hard and adventurous journey down the river from Edmonton. On the 17th June I started with my aide-de-camp, Capt. Freer, and Mr. Hayter Reid for Cold Lake, about fifteen miles off, where Lt. Col. Osborne Smith had been sent with the Winnipeg Light Infantry. We had to swim our horses across the Beaver River, and found two or three nasty muskegs on the other side, and were more or less baited by mosquitoes and "bulldogs" all the way. I found Osborne Smith had sent the Rev. Mr. McKay—one of our best scouts—off in a canoe with two Indians to try and gain information about Big Bear. This lake, which is a large one, is well called Cold Lake, as its water is icy cold, but it seems to agree with the white fish, pike and trout, which abound, and are of immense size and very good to eat. The next day Captain Bedson arrived with supplies and letters for us, and in the evening the two Indians came in with news that the Metis and the rest of the prisoners had been released and were travelling by Loon Lake to Fort Pitt. This was grand news indeed, and I gave orders for my mounted party to move off at daybreak for Fort Pitt, and directed Major General Strange to collect his force and join me there. Capt. Bedson and myself started in a wagon next morning, the 19th June, at 3 a. m., for "the landing" on the North Saskatchewan River, a distance of fifty miles, which we did, over a bad and difficult road, in about twelve hours, capturing a small black bear cub on our way. At "the landing" we found a steamer, and in it reached Fort Pitt at 10 p. m., Capt. Bedson starting at once with teams to meet the released prisoners at Loon Lake. Our camp was pitched on the plateau overlooking the remains of Fort Pitt, which had been placed in a bad position as regards defence. On the 22nd June Captain Bedson arrived with the released prisoners all safe and well.

On the 26th I received the news that Big Bear's band had broken up, so with Batoche captured, Riel and Poundmaker prisoners, Big Bear powerless and a fugitive, and all the prisoners released, I considered my work nearly done, and began to make arrangements for breaking up the force. By the 3rd of July the last of the troops at Fort Pitt had embarked in the steamers, except the Winnipeg Light Infantry, under Lt. Col. Osborne Smith, which were left behind to gather in arms and prisoners, perhaps Big Bear himself. On my way down the river, however, I had the satisfaction of re-

ceiving a report that Big Bear had given himself up on the 2nd July to a small detachment of mounted police at Carlton. This actually completed the perfect success of our campaign, but our joy was damped by the untimely death of Lt. Col. Williams, M.P., commanding the Midlanders. He died on board the steamer from the effects of a chill. His loss was universally deplored, not only by us, his comrades, but by the whole of Canada. I cannot better conclude this narrative than by quoting the General Order with which I took leave of my force:

"In thus completing the breaking-up of the Northwest Field Force, which has been under the immediate command of Major General Middleton during the late campaign, he cannot let the officers and men comprising it separate without expressing his great satisfaction with them. During the whole time he has not had to assemble one court-martial; and, in fact, there has been an almost total absence of crime. The troops have had great hardships to undergo, and real difficulties to overcome, and have borne and met them like men, with ready cheerfulness and without complaint. They, as untried volunteer-soldiers, have had to move in a country where an extraordinary scare existed, had against an enemy with whom it was openly prophesied they would be unable to cope, unless with great superiority of numbers. The scare they disregarded, as shown by the fact that during the whole three months not more than two or three false alarms took place in camp, and the prophecy they falsified by beating back the enemy with a fighting line only equal if not inferior to him in numbers. Each regiment, corps, or arm of the service has vied one against the other, and each has equally well done its duty; not forgetting the transport service, which under its two able officers has so well aided our movements, the medical department which has been so efficiently directed, and the chaplains who have so carefully and arduously ministered to our spiritual comforts. The Major General in taking farewell of his old comrades begs to wish them all happiness and success in their several walks in life, and to sincerely thank them, one and all, for having by their gallantry, good conduct, and hard work, enabled him to carry to a successful conclusion what will probably be his last campaign."

The End.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

If the account of their stewardship for 1893, issued by the Council of the National Rifle Association, is not of that all-round rosy character which they, and the friends of the interests confided to their care, would have wished, there is a good deal in it from which heart of grace may be taken. That portion of the report which is addressed personally to the members is very brief. No effort is made to minimise the effect of such of its phases as fail to afford subject for congratulation, while, on the other hand, no undue elation is manifested in reference to matters having the merit of being satisfactory. The past year's report is the thirty-fourth of the series, and the fourth since the removal from Wimbledon to Bisley Heath, where the meeting, if it does not flourish like the proverbial green bay-tree, is at least firmly rooted and acclimatised. As we have said, the report, pure and simple, is brief, and its points calling for special notice are few. We are referred to Lord Robert's advocacy of the standing position for short-range shooting. In this connection some curiosity may, perhaps, be felt as to whether the Council will have the courage of his Lordship's opinion and endeavour to introduce more shoulder shooting into

this season's programme. Mention is also made of the admission of Veterans to certain competitions as heretofore. Our readers are aware of what is contemplated in reference to this class of competition this year. In regard to Tyros, for whom considerable provision was made by the addition of one hundred £1 prizes in the first stage of the Queen's, and the institution of the Jeffery. All will be interested in the information that 208 of these hitherto non-winners took prizes in the Queen's list.

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The financial features of the report, which are the real tests of success or failure, are, to quote from the book itself, "fairly satisfactory." The sum of £1,000 has been paid off the amount due to the bankers. This reduction of liability has, admittedly, not been effected on the strength of the year's profits, seeing that none was made. The payment was made chiefly out of the balance brought forward from 1892. Regarding the actual trading—to speak commercially—there was a loss of a little over £200 on the year's transactions, as against over double that sum in 1892. In view of the foregoing, it is scarcely necessary for the Council to state that they will not consider the position of the Association to be thoroughly satisfactory until the receipts exceed the expenditure. The throwing open of certain competitions during the first week of the meeting had the effect of somewhat increasing the receipts; there was, however, a considerable set-off for expenses caused thereby. Something will no doubt be said at the general meeting on these points, as no expression of approval or otherwise of the innovation is made in the report. There is one matter, a little one of itself, perhaps, but which is welcome as indicating which way the wind blows, and that is, the increase in the number of visitors to the camp during the meeting. In 1892 the members of what may be called "the public" who visited Bisley were 5,451; last year these figures were exceeded by about five hundred. The greater influx of people did not, however, mean a corresponding number of shillings to the coffers of the Association, owing to an arrangement by which the railway company shares in the proceeds. The Council have unfortunately to deplore a continuance of the falling-off—apparent in other years—in the receipts from annual subscriptions. More serious still is the decrease in the number of entries for most of the principal prizes, i.e. those that constitute the backbone of the Bisley meeting.

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The various comparative tables provided for the information of the members afford interest and instruction. Taking the Queen's, as coming first in order of importance, we find that the entries fell away by fifty-three from the previous year, and by forty-five for the the George's. The All-Comers, Grand Aggregate, and the Martins suffered in about the same degree, and the Volunteer Aggregate and Daily Graphic still more severely. To mention some few others of the M.-H. competitions; the Armourers lost forty-six entries; Alexandra, seventeen; Extra Prizes, forty-four; Gregory, 102; Heath, 376; Pirbright, upwards of 500. Against the foregoing, the entries for the Carrington went up 268, the Extra Prizes and Kynoch over 200 each, the Pavilion considerably over 100. In the first series of the Tit-Bits there was the large addition of over 700 to the figures of 1892, whilst nearly 300 more entrants were attracted by the new conditions of the Prince of Wales, and the Wantage had not far short of an increase of 400. The hope of winning one of the sixteen prizes in the Jeffery drew 1,037 entries. The success of this contest should, we think, be sufficiently en-

couraging to induce the Council to see the expediency of extending the prize list this year. The entries in the Any Rifle category would seem to have been a diminishing quantity, mainly owing to a falling-off of about one-third for the Association Cup contest. On the other hand, those in the five competitions reserved for M.B.L. rifles show an increase of thirty-three, a result which is chiefly due to the Steward. Whilst proof was afforded of increased interest in such team contests as the Brinsmead, Belgian, Mappin, Mullens, and the China Cup, etc., it is regrettable to see a drop of from thirteen teams to eight in the Duke of Westminster. In this connection we cannot help thinking that the path of wisdom lays in the direction of offering money prizes in addition to the trophy. There was a decline in the aggregate of entrants for the contests restricted to sporting rifles; and, on the contrary, a very material increase is apparent in the category of competitions headed as "various," there seeming to have been a considerable rush of competitors. These include the Morris, Smokeless Powder, Walsrode, and the Whitehead, and they between them ran on the substantial addition of upwards of five hundred more entries than in 1892. The various revolver and pistol competitions show equally satisfactory results, whilst there were more than five thousand shots fired at ordinary pool. In conclusion, it may be stated that a comparison of the shooting results of the various competitions of 1893 compare in a highly favorable manner with those of the previous year.—The Volunteer Record.

THE CANADIAN MILITIA

ITS IMPERIAL IMPORTANCE.

In common with other of our Colonial Forces the Canadian Militia is far too frequently regarded from a limited and local point of view, and it is forgotten that it is in fact a not unimportant link in the scheme of Imperial Defence. True, there are other links upon which the principal strain of any war we are likely to be engaged in will more probably fall, but it cannot be predicted, when once hostilities have broken out, what portions of the Empire may become affected nor precisely what duties will fall to each. This much, however, is certain, that a colony neglecting during peace to prepare to the best of its ability for its own defence is inviting attack at any time that, in the opinion of an enemy, it could not easily at the moment be afforded support by the Imperial Forces.

We would not be understood to in any way advocate a selfish and shortsighted policy on the part of any of the Colonies, a policy which would dissociate the defence of particular portions of the Empire from that of the whole. On the contrary, we hold that the safety and well-being of the Empire absolutely require that a complete understanding should be arrived at by all its component parts as to the requirements for Imperial Defence.

In this connection the old illustration of the bundle of sticks is peculiarly applicable. As Sir George Chesney observed in the course of his admirable paper on "The British Empire," read by him at the meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute on Tuesday, it requires no great stretch of the imagination to foresee that a great war breaking out before any mutual understanding or agreement had been arrived at between the Mother Country and the Colonies as to the relative obligations to be undertaken by them, or any machinery provided for the proper employment of their joint resour-

ces, might in itself lead to dismemberment of the Empire—truly the greatest catastrophe which could befall the British race.

Well indeed would it be if by the formation, as Sir George Chesney and others would have it, of an Imperial Council, or otherwise, Imperial federation should be brought a step nearer accomplishment and the very name of "Colonies" should fall into disuse, and we came instead to speak of the different "countries" which make up our common Empire.

To return to our immediate subject, the Canadian Militia, events, in the world's history follow each other so closely that each one in its turn quickly passes from the public memory. Few outside Canada itself remember that this Force but nine years ago placed at a few days' notice 5,000 men in the field in order to suppress Riel's rebellion in the North-West Territories, besides in the same year of 1885 supplying, at two hours' notice, nearly 3,000 men in aid of the civil authority at Montreal.

How well the Canadian Militia acquitted itself in the performance of the former task is, perhaps, hardly sufficiently appreciated in this country. Sir Frederick Middleton, who was Major-General in command of the North-West Field Force, in his General Order issued upon its breaking-up, expressing his great satisfaction, observed that during the whole time of the operations he had not had to assemble one court-martial; and, in fact, there had been an almost total absence of crime. The troops, the General goes on to remark, "have had great hardships to undergo and real difficulties to overcome, and have borne and met them like men, with real cheerfulness and without complaint. They, as untried Volunteer soldiers, have had to move in a country where an extraordinary scare existed, and against an enemy with whom it was openly prophesied it would be unable to cope, unless with great superiority of numbers. The scare they disregarded, as shown by the fact that during the whole three months not more than two or three false alarms took place in camp, and the prophecy they falsified by beating back the enemy with a fighting line only equal, if not inferior, to him in numbers. Each regiment, corps, or arm of the Service has vied one against the other, and each has equally well done its duty." This assuredly is a testimony of which any body of troops might well be proud.

Defects there certainly are in the present system governing the Canadian Militia, and improvement is necessary in its equipment, but of the extreme patriotism and devotion of the men composing it there can be no possibility of doubt, and we heartily wish success to the praiseworthy efforts of our contemporary the Canadian Military Gazette to induce Canadians to look upon their Militia more seriously than they have been accustomed to, as something more than an organisation of special constables available when required to aid the civil power in exerting its authority over riotous subjects.

England's participation in a big European war would result, our contemporary feels assured, in at least a large portion of the active Militia being placed on service, for Canada would have to be defended, there is "enough patriotism in Canada to insist upon the defence of the Dominion in a time of emergency entailing as slight a drain as possible upon the military resources of the Imperial Government."

Will, our contemporary pertinently asks, Great Britain, with her Colonies scattered all over the world, and the necessity of protecting the shores of her own "tight little island," be able, in the event of a great war, to spare sufficient naval force to protect unassisted the Canadian seaboard? Considering the present strength of our Navy, we think that Canada should find no difficulty in fully appreciating the folly of depending wholly on the Navy for the defence of the Dominion in the event of a European war.

We can most readily believe that as soon as the loyal people of Canada realise that their Militia is Canada's contribution towards the great scheme of Imperial defence they will insist on its being put on a more sound footing.—The United Service Gazette.



ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE CLUB OF QUEBEC.

The tenth annual meeting of the Royal Military College Club of Canada was held in the City of Toronto, on Saturday the 24th of February. Through the kindness of the president and members of the Canadian Military Institute the meeting was held in their rooms. The following officers and members of the club were in attendance:

President, Lieut. R. W. Leonard, U. L., Brantford, Ont.

Vice-President, Capt. H. S. Greenwood, R. L., Cornwall, Ont.

Hon. Secretary-Treas., Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele, R. L., Quebec.

Managing Committee, Lieut. D. C. Campbell, U. L., Ottawa; Lt. Fred W. White, U. L., Ottawa; Lt. L. Homfray Irving, R. L., and Lt. W. A. H. Kerr, U. L., of Toronto, Ont.

Members—Maj. S. J. A. Denison, R.R.C.I., London, Ont.; Capt. W. M. Davis, 22nd Batt., Woodstock, Ont.; Capt. F. M. Gaudet, R.C.A., Kingston, Ont.; Capt. J. Drummond McKay, 10th Batt., Toronto, Ont.; Capt. J. Chas. MacDougall, R.R.C.I., Toronto; Capt. G. Twining, R.E., Kingston, Ont.; Capt. W. F. Van Buskirk, R. L., Stratford; Lt. A. W. Burnham, U. L., Whithy, Ont.; Lt. Francis Joseph Dixon, U. L., Toronto; Lt. A. T. K. Evans, U. L., Toronto; Lt. E. T. B. Gillmore, Ottawa Field Battery, Ottawa; Lt. J. A. Hesketh, London Field Battery; Lt. A. K. Kirkpatrick, U. L., Smith's Falls, Ont.; Lt. H. J. Lamb, U. L., Quebec; Lt. J. H. Laurie, R.R.C.I., Toronto; Lt. H. A. Panet, U. L., Smith's Falls, Ont.; Lt. H. R. Pousset, 36th Batt., Toronto; Lt. H. R. Strickland, U. L., Lakefield, Ont.; Lt. W. G. Yorston, U. L., Truro, N.S., and Messrs. W. C. Brough, A. H. N. Kennedy, E. F. R. Tate and W. G. Warner, of Toronto.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m. by the president and adjourned for luncheon at 1.30 after having adopted the minutes of the last annual meeting, and fully considered the constitution and by-laws as amended and revised by the Managing Committee, and several questions touching upon the welfare of the club and its members.

The meeting re-assembled at 3 and adjourned at 4.30. The afternoon session was principally taken up with the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:

President, Lt. E. H. Drury, U. L., Island Falls, Me.

Vice-Presidents, Lieut. Francis Joseph Dixon, U. L., Toronto, Ont.; Lieut. D. C. Campbell, U. L., Ottawa, Ont.

Hon. Secretary-Treas., Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele, R. L., Quebec, P. Q., re-elected.

Managing Committee, Capt. J. B. Cochran, U. L., R.M.C., Kingston, Ont.; Lt. L. Homfray Irving, R. L., Toronto, Ont., re-elected; Capt. D. MacPherson, R. L., Montreal, P. Q., re-elected; Lt. Fred W. White, U. L., Ottawa, Ont., re-elected; Capt. H. S. Greenwood, R. L., Cornwall, Ont.

The annual dinner was held in the evening at the Walker House. Covers were laid for about fifty and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The club guests present were: Lt. Col. W. D. Otter, D.A.G.; Mr. W. McLean, M.P.; Gentleman Cadet Batt. Sgt. Major W. C. Heneker, of the Royal Military College, Kingston.

The private guests were as follows: Lt. Cols. Sweny, J. F. Turnbull, R.C.D.; R. B. Hamilton, Q.O.R.; J. Mason, R.G.; Surg-Major F. W. Strange, R.R.C.I.; Majors L. Buchan, R.R.C.I.; H. M. Pellatt, Q.O.R.; Capt. F. L. Lessard, R.C.D., and Messrs. W. Forester, R.C.D.; R. Myles, T.F.B., and E. B. Temple.

After the toasts of the "Queen" and our "Governor-General" had been honoured, the Hon. Secretary, Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele, read letters of regret from Hon. J. C. Patterson, Minister of Militia and Defence, Major General Ivor Herbert, commanding the Militia; Major General, D. R. Cameron, commandant Royal Military College; Hon. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, Lt. Governor of Ontario; Col. Sir Casimir Gzowski, Mr. Forshaw Day, Royal Military College, and Mr. Willison, of the Globe.

When the menu had been disposed of an interesting toast list, interspersed with songs and banjo selections, was entered upon.

Mr. Strickland, in proposing the toast of "The Government of Canada," thanked them for the interest they had taken in the R.M.C. He compared the Canadian College with the American Academy at West Point, and contrasted the policy of the American Government, who give all military appointments to graduates of their institution, with that of the Canadian Government in bringing strangers from England, of whom they know nothing, and placing them over the heads of the graduates of the R.M.C. He said that the Canadian Government fixes a standard up to which its graduates must come, and he did not see why those graduates should be neglected and strangers brought in. The evidences of good-will shown by the present Minister might, he said, lead to the finding of employment for the graduates in this country, and might thus stop their present enforced emigration.

Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P., responded to the toast. He said he had been impressed with the treatment of the graduates by the Government, and that he did not think the Government's conduct in overlooking the graduates was right. He had found in his brief experience of political life that there was nothing so bad for the politician as patronage, and he wished sincerely that he could be rid of it tomorrow. He believed that every appointment should go to the man of most merit. Positions in the Northwest Mounted Police, etc., should be given to graduates of the college, and politics should have nothing to do with the appointments. He believed that Mr. Patterson was anxious to do all he could for the college, and that he was doing everything in his power to strengthen the military force of the country, but politics were undoubtedly in his way. It has been charged that the school was English in its tendency. Mr. Maclean, after giving an eloquent description of the Englishman's character, said that the school could not imbue a better idea than this. He closed a good speech by expressing the pleasure it afforded him to be present and promising to do all in his

power in the interests of the college.

The toast of "The Army, Navy, and Militia" was proposed by Mr. Leonard, the retiring president, and was responded to by Cols. Sweny, Turnbull, Hamilton and Mason, all of whom referred in the highest terms to the Royal Military College, its graduates, and the beneficial effect they had upon the militia of Canada.

Col. Hamilton, after an admirable sketch of the history of the Canadian militia, said that the time had come when they should let the members of the Government know that they demanded that the claims of the graduates of the Military College should be recognized. It was a shameful thing, he said, that men like Stairs had to go from the country to earn a living when there were positions in Canada that would give them employment. He claimed that the militia of Canada had not been fairly treated. They had been treated as a fifth wheel.

Col. Mason also expressed the opinion that the Government had not done its duty to the R.M.C. It was understood at the time that the college was started, he said, that its graduates should have first claim on the Government, but this had not been done, and the militia had suffered by it. He was glad to see that Mr. Maclean realized the position and had promised to do what he could for the graduates.

The other toasts on the list were "The Press," "The Royal Military College" and "Our Absent Comrades." "The R.M.C." was received with a heartiness and enthusiasm which showed how dear to its alumni the college is. After the singing of "Rule Britannia" and the "Red, White and Blue," the toast was responded to by Col. Otter, Capt. Twining and Batt. Sergt.-Maj. Hencker.

Col. Otter, after speaking in the highest terms of the college and the education given there, dwelt upon the necessity of the Canadian militia, if it is ever to be of real service, being educated. He condemned in the strongest manner the appointment of men to positions in the permanent militia owing to political influence. "We have had considerable experience of such men," he said, "and they have been found wanting."

"Our Absent Comrades" was proposed by Mr. O. R. Evans and responded to by Major Denison, London.

A YEAR'S NEW WARSHIPS.

The warships, exclusive of torpedo-boats, launched during the year 1893 for the various navies, with their tonnage and estimated speed, were as follows:

Great Britain: Second class protected cruisers: Astrea, 4360 tons, 19.5 knots; Cambrian, 4360 tons, 19.5 knots; Char-ybdis, 4360 tons, 19.5 knots; Flora, 4360 tons; 19.5 knots; Forte, 4360 tons, 19.5 knots; Hermione, 4360 tons, 19.5 knots. Gun vessels: Speedy, 810 tons, 20.2 knots; Dryad, 1070 tons, 19.0 knots. Torpedo boat destroyers: Havock, Hornet, Daring, Lynx, each 220 tons, 26.27 knots.

Argentine Republic: Gun vessel: Patria, 1183 tons, 18 knots.

Austria Hungary: Protected cruiser: Kaiserin and Konigin Maria Theresa, 5100 tons, 19 knots. Gun vessel: Satellit, 500 tons, 20.5 knots.

Brazil (purchased from Schichau, of Elbing): Five torpedo boat destroyers, 120 tons, 26 knots.

Chili: Protected cruiser: Blanco Encalada, 4400 tons, 23 knots.

China: Protected cruiser: Foo-Ching, 1040 tons, 16 knots.

Denmark: Torpedo boat destroyers: Nordkaperen and Makrelen, each 120 tons, 20 knots.

France: First class battleships: Charles Martel, 11,800 tons, 17.5 knots; Jaureguiberry, 11,820 tons, 18 knots. Second class battleships for coast defence: Trehouart, 6610 tons, 17 knots. Armoured

cruiser: Charner, 4750 tons, 19 knots. Protected cruisers: Bugeaud, 3720 tons, 19.5 knots; Chasseloup Laubat, 3720 tons, 19.5 knots; Fricant, 3720 tons, 19.5 knots; Suchet, 3430 tons, 20 knots. Gun-vessels: D'Iberville, 925 tons, 21.5 knots; Fleurus, 1310 tons, 17 knots. Torpedo boat destroyers: Lanaguenet, 138 tons, 26 knots; Archer, 120 tons, 20.5 knots; Mousquetaire, 125 tons, 24.7 knots.

Germany: Protector cruiser: Gefion, 5000 tons, 20 knots.

Italy: Protected cruiser: Liguria, 2225 tons, 18.5 knots.

Russia: First class battleship: Tri Sviatitelia, 12,000 tons, 17.5 knots. Third class battleship for coast defence: Admiral Ushakoff, 4126 tons, 16 knots. Gun-vessels: Guidamak, Griden, Vasdnik, each 400 tons, 21 knots.

United States: First class battleships: Indiana, Massachusetts, Oregon, each 10,200 tons, 16.2 knots. Ram cruiser: Katahdin, 2100 tons, 17 knots. Protected cruiser: Minneapolis, 7350 tons, 21 knots.

Hayti: Gunboats: Alexander Petiom, Capois la Mort, each 200 tons, 14 knots. The total warship tonnage launched by each of the more active naval powers was thus: France, 52,188; United States, 40,050; Great Britain, 28,920; Russia, 17,326.

DOGS IN WAR.

The Germans have devoted themselves to the training of dogs for carrying communications to and from outposts with considerable success, pointers being found the best animals for the purpose. Larger dogs are now to be tried in conveying ammunition. Considering the relations between men and dogs in England, where certainly, in spite of the seven-and-sixpenny duty, now overdue, more dogs are kept as pets than in any other country, it is strange (thinks the Daily Chronicle) that we have done nothing in the way of utilizing for military purposes, and especially for carrying orders, the services of the affectionate "friend of man." There is, it is true, an Act of Parliament against employing dogs in traction, but there seems to be nothing in its spirit or its letter to prevent the use of dogs as messengers, even if they are made to carry a small burden. The German Army dogs have a special officer and a special body of men charged with their nurture and training. They are taught to march without frisking about, to avoid barking, but to announce the presence of strangers by a growl, to carry messages up to two and a half miles by known roads, and beyond that distance to find their own way across country, and to do their duty at the command of any man in the same uniform. They are fed systematically on biscuits and meal prepared with water of stock, and their high intelligence is in every way directed within the limits of a narrow circle. The trainer is ordered to be sparing of both rewards and punishments, but the dog is always, on doing well, to be welcomed and patted. —Naval and Military Record.

THE 2ND SOMERSESSHIRE, L. I.

The Somersetshire L.I., the 2nd Batt. of which was expected to arrive at Devonport at the end of the week after an absence abroad of over sixteen years, was raised in 1685 for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of the "Monmouth" Rebellion, and has seen service in nearly every part of the empire. On its colors it has the badges of the "Sphinx," superscribed "Egypt," and a "Mural Crown," superscribed "Jellalabad." The honors which the regiment is entitled to bear on its colors are Dettingen, Martinique, Ava, Afghanistan, Ghuznee, Cabool 1842, Sevastopol, South Africa 1878-9, and Burma (1885-87). The raising of the 2nd Batt. only dates from 1858, when it was decid-

ed to form a second battalion to the twenty-five regiments of infantry of the line. During the past five years it has served, and seen considerable service in, Burma, where, with the 2nd Devons, it did much hard work, having been broken up into detachments to form columns to disperse and exterminate dacoity. As a regiment, the Somersets are without equal in the army. In the field or in quarters, it has always won the greatest of praise from generals and other officers, and, being a Westcountry corps, it will be gladly welcomed in the Three Towns.

A MAN OF THE HOUR.

The director of England's naval construction, Mr. William H. White, C.B., L.L.D., F.R.S., probably holds at this moment the most responsible position in the wide world, in that upon his judgment rests the security of the British Empire. During the past four months no one could possibly envy the post held by this gentleman, as since the naval crusade began in October last the Admiralty has been deluged by remonstrance, suggestions, implications, and offers of assistance on the part of inventors, artificers, spies, et hoc genus omne. During the whole of this trying time Mr. White has had to combat the prepossessions formed by naval authorities almost as highly placed as himself. He has had to meet the arguments of irresponsible Parliamentarians who, often wrapt in prejudice, think they are better informed than the expert himself; and in addition he has had to fight the dogmatic opinions of his once colleague, Sir Edward Reed, the member for Cardiff, whose judgment in matters of shipbuilding can only be impugned by those of the very highest constructive ability. That he has succeeded in satisfying all the objections raised by the Ministry appears to be proved by the confidence reposed in him, as it is perfectly certain that before the Cabinet separated for their brief vacation the arrangements for the new naval programme were so far completed that they were agreed to, and Mr. White was left in full charge to carry out the details. It is understood that Mr. White, who has now held the position of chief naval constructor for many years, is opposed to the enormous and unwieldy battleships which fill three-fifths of the proposed naval programme. He believes in the rapid cruiser and the swift torpedo catcher, as it is quite established that no great naval engagement of the future will be fought in battalions. The opinion of the leading naval experts of France is that there can by no means be a repetition of Trafalgar—that is to say, the sea warfare of the future will be a series of separate attacks, serried lines of ships at anchor being impossible from the point of view of modern artillery. Mr. White coincides with this idea, and it is generally understood that the Lords of the Admiralty are with him on this question.

"THE MAGNIFICENT STRIP OF EARTH CALLED CANADA."

Sir Henry Tyler on Monday evening presided at the house dinner of the Imperial Institute, and subsequently at the evening lecture. "Our New Highway by the Orient across the Mountains, Prairies, and Rivers of Canada," delivered by Mr. J. E. Mudlock. The lecturer expressed his deep regret that England had allowed her hold of the magnificent strip of earth called Canada to be loosened in the way she had done. Canada was larger than the United States by 500,000 square miles, but with a population scarcely greater than that of Scotland. The land was groaning for population and for the means of opening up the country and the vast forests capa-

ble of supplying the world with timber for a century to come. Canada offered an extremely valuable field for emigrants such as agriculturists, artisans, and laborers. He referred to the extreme rapidity with which towns sprang up, and by means of some beautiful limelight views—60 in number—illustrated the route of the Canada Pacific Railway. A section of the Canadian people—happily a minority—were in favor of annexation to the United States, and to his mind a great mistake was made in the withdrawal of British garrisons, as these and the presence of a British gunboat in such a river as the St. Lawrence were calculated to stimulate patriotism in Canada for the mother country. Annexation to the United States, however, was certain, unless steps were taken to keep Canada in touch with these islands.

JACK LOFTUS OF "OURS;" OR ST. VALENTIEN'S DAY.

(My friend Jack Loftus, of the — Fusiliers, having "left the Service," there is no longer any impediment to the publication of the following incident in his life, which may not be uninteresting to the votaries of that popular character.—Saint Valentine.)

"So you don't know Jack Loftus!—

Well, then, let me say,
That the best of good comrades
He is, in his way.
If he draws out your fun,
He n'er takes a man in;
He's a capital "shot,"
And has "no end" of "tin."
The right sort of fellow,
Is Jack, you must know—
To his friend firm and fast,
Ever fair towards a foe;
Whilst his sly roughish glance,
Which attracts every maid,
Makes the regiment laugh
When he comes on parade.

Jack had joined us at drill,
On Saint Valentine's Day,
With his hand full of letters,
And laughing away:—
"Come, I say, you 'Old Buffer,'
"Come just look'ee here;
"I'm in love, to the tune
"Of nine hundred a year!"
Well, nine hundred a year
Is not bad, Jack, said I;
Such an income has pleasures,
I cannot deny—

(Shoulder Arms!)—for myself,
To the wish I incline,
That all "Subs." has as much
Who go into the Line!
"Very true, my dear fellow!—
"You see she invites
"Me to meet her, and then
"She'll explain what she writes."
(Present Arms!)—"so to-night,
"About seven, you know,
"To wait this adorable
"Creature we go."

"It's most lucky, old chappie,
"That this is Leap Year,
"When the girls may propose,
"And have nothing to fear
"From papas or mammas,
"For the custom, you see"—
"Is to pay, sir, respect
"And obedience to me!"

"Oh, confound the old Colonel!
"How loud he does bawl!—
"We must go there to-night,
"Or we can't go at all!"—
"Mr. Loftus, I've hitherto
"Spoken in vain;
"Have the goodness to go
"Through 'The Manual' again!"

When at mess in the evening,
The wine had gone round,
And "First Post" of Tattoo
With our great-coats around us,

We made for the door,
And bowled off like two shots
From a "bang twenty-four."
What took place at this meeting
I do not intend
To divulge to my sister,
Or "intimate friend;"
But I know, from that time
Jack determined that life
He could no more enjoy
If he had not a wife!

At the barracks, one morning,
Parade had been formed,
And the Colonel, as usual,
Swore, fretted, and stormed;
When a window flew open,
And what should he hear,
But the laugh of the girl
With nine hundred a year!
"Who is that?"—roared the Colonel—
"Who dares laugh at me?"
"Some one laugh'd in the ranks, there—
"Can none of you see?"—
"Sir, that was Mrs. Loftus,"
The Adjutant cried—
"Oh, hang Mrs. Loftus!"
The Colonel replied.
"And now pray, Mr. Loftus,
"What meaning has this?"
"For, by Jingo, I fancy,
"There's something amiss!"
"Why, no—not quite exactly, sir,
"It will appear,
"Since the lady possesses
"Nine hundred a year!"
"What!—a nine hundred a year!
"You don't say so!—bless me!
"Why now, how very fortunate
"You seem to be!
"We must all drink your health, Jack,
"And—eh, by the by,
"For your step of promotion
"At once I'll apply!"

Major A. ST. JOHN SEALY.

DEATH OF COL. BARON DE ROTTENBURG.

Was beginning to sound,
Col. Baron George de Rottenburg, C.B., Military Knight of Windsor, died somewhat unexpectedly at his residence in the Lower Ward, Windsor Castle, on Sunday morning. He was born in 1807, and entered the Army in 1825, when he joined the 81st Regiment, becoming Colonel 29 years later. He also served in the 60th Rifles and the 49th Regiment, and retired from the Army in 1861. Baron de Rottenburg was for a considerable time in Canada, acting as assistant adjutant, assistant quartermaster-general, and adjutant-general, and during the rebellion in 1837 commanded the Militia and Volunteers in several districts. He was a Commissioner for the defence of the Province, and assisted in drawing up a Militia Bill.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE AS- SOCIATION.

On Wednesday the 34th annual report of the National Rifle Association—the fourth since the prize meeting has been held at Bisley—was issued by the council. The total receipts of the year were £22,032, and the expenditure £21,407; the difference, with a balance of £1,075 from the previous year, enabling the council to pay off £1,000 of the debt (incurred through the removal from Wimbledon). The amount of indebtedness now standing at £7,500; the total amount given in prizes, medals, pools, &c., (£11,474) was £411 more than in 1892. The experiment tried last July of increasing the number of prizes in the Queen's series to 600 by adding 200 prizes of £1 each (the last hundred being reserved for tyros) gave encouragement to young shots, 108 of the

tyros winning prizes in the general list, in addition to those taking the reserve hundred. The receipts from corps hiring ranges for ordinary practice do not show the increase for which the council had hoped; though the receipts for admission to the Bisley ground show a slight falling off.

PRIZES FOR RIFLE COMPE- TITION.

The Military Gazette is and always has been supported principally by shooting men, whose organ it has always been, and whose interests it is always ready and eager to champion. Wishing to do something on its accord to help the riflemen, the owners of this paper have decided to offer a handsome prize for competition to any regiment or company in Canada. In doing this they are not trying to pose as philanthropists; they have a selfish object as well as the promotion of rifle shooting in view. This object is to increase the usefulness of the paper and enlarge its field by increasing its circulation. The more subscribers we have the better our paper will be.

The conditions then on which we will present these prizes are: 1st. Eight names are to be sent to us, of members of your regiment, who are not at present subscribers to our paper, and who want to receive it; 2nd. Sixteen dollars, the amount of the eight subscriptions for one year must accompany the names and these will receive the Gazette for one year.

The prize will then be forwarded, all charges prepaid, to any address in Canada, to be competed for by the regiment thus qualified, all conditions of shooting, etc., to be settled by the committee of its rifle association, and the result and full detail of the match to be forwarded for publication to this paper.

You will be astonished to find how many of your officers and shooting men, who would be much interested by our paper, and to whom it would be of much practical use, do not subscribe for it. The following is a list of the prizes from which you may make a selection:

The Roll Call, by Lady Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Quatre Bras, by Lady Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Balaclava, by Lady Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Pour La Patrie, by L. Royer, size of frame 27 by 36 inches, or the pair; Trompette de Dragon, Detaille, size of frame 22 by 28 inches; Chasseur a Cheval, de Neuville, size of frame 22 by 28 inches. The pair are beautifully colored engravings, while the other pictures are in black and white, and all are the work of Messrs. Boussod, Valadon & Cie., Paris, successors to the world renowned house of Goupil, of the Fine Art Society of England.

For a Mess Room or Armory no picture could be more suitable. Do you not think that your officers and men would be glad to get for your regimental matches a prize worth fully \$12 at practically no cost to themselves?

A BARGAIN FOR \$70.00 CASH.

Infantry Lieutenant's outfit, tunic, patrol jacket, mess jacket and vest, dress trousers, gold stripe, undress trousers (2 prs.), great coat, forage cap, cross belts, pouch, sword, and slings, all of modern make and in fair order.

Also sets of gold belts and sword knot, in velvet lined tin case, for \$25.00

Apply to INFANTRY P.O. Box,
1269 WINNIPEG.

FOR SALE—Rifle Captain's Uniform. Full Dress, Undress, Dress Jacket and Waistcoat, Overcoat, Crossbelt, Sword and Belt, Forage Cap and Persian Lamb Busby. Height 5ft. 11, chest 37 inches.

J. H. KNIFTON, Parry Sound.