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1895.

TO THE

1896.

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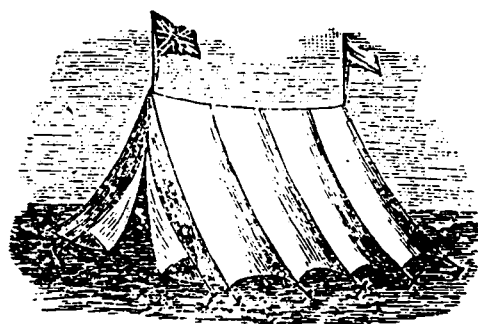
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MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 15, 1896.

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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. Address,

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE

P.O. Box, 2179, Montreal, Que.

Halifax, N. S.

The annual meeting of No. 4 company 63rd Rifles was held at the drill shed on Saturday evening, 25th ult. Reports from the different committees showed the company to be in a flourishing condition. It was decided to hold the annual sleigh drive on February 12th, the price of tickets being fixed at \$1.50. The officers elected were:

President—Capt. Gunning (re-elected).
Vice-President—Lieut. Thompson (re-elected).
Treasurer—Lieut. Moore (re-elected).
Secretary—Sergt. Daniels (re-elected).
Managing Committee—Pvtes. Meagher (re-elected), McDonald, Rosborough.
Auditors—Pvtes. Tupper, Etter.

No. 3 company 1st C. A. have formed themselves into an association for mutual improvement, etc. They have engaged suitable rooms, purchased piano, billiard table, etc., and will soon open by entertaining their friends to an "At Home." The association is outside the military organization of the company.

In your last issue you credited the 1st C. A. with an aggregate of 125. This is an error, the aggregate, according to the inspector's report, is 175'25.

Bombardier Thompson, 1st C. A., wrote to the *Halifax Evening Mail* on military matters. I am sending you the letter, hoping you will find space for it in your columns.

Things are quiet in military matters down this way.

GRAVELCRUSHER.

Kingston.

KINGSTON, Feb. 10.—Kingston has no drill shed! For thirty years past the local battalion of rifles has drilled in a structure that was wonderfully and fearfully made. It resembled, to a certain extent, in appearance, the home of a beaver, for was it not dome-roofed, and always very damp? A rare and beautiful species of moss grew luxuriantly on the ground-floor, within its walls, and ornamented the sides at varying heights. Interesting effects of the passage of time were to be found in the beams, girders, etc., and the troops using it have, for years past, been quite undisturbed by rats. Along one side, on the interior, ran a series of "cubby-holes," which, in more modern times, have been used as company armories.

Some years ago, the authorities of Queen's University secured possession of the land on which the beautiful and stately old building stood, and last June it was abandoned as a drill-hall.

Since the skating season set in, it has been used as a skating rink. On Friday 7th inst., it collapsed under the weight of melting snow on its roof, and "great was the fall thereof." The citizens view the destruction of one of the architectural ornaments of the city with an apathy that is really hard to account for.

Last week, a deputation composed of the mayor of the city, Major Skinner, and Ald. Ryan went to Ottawa to interview the Minister of Militia, and urge the construction, in this city, of a new drill shed, to cost from \$25,000 to \$30,000. The deputation, accompanied by Hon. Senator Sullivan, of this city, J. H. Metcalfe, M. P., for Kingston, H. A. Calvin, M. P., Lt-Col. Smith, late of the 14th Batt. P.W.O. R., and Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons, and James Swift, saw the Premier, the Minister of Militia, and Messrs. Foster, Costigan, Dickey, Panet, and Gobeil, and urged the right to, and great need of, a proper drill-shed. The ministers admitted the justice of the claims and promised to give them due consideration, but could not promise that the request of the deputation would be granted this year, as the cost of re-arming the militia, purchasing new clothing,

and of drilling the entire militia force, will fully equal the amount of the militia appropriation. A promise was given, however, that the drill-shed will be erected as soon as possible. The Minister of Militia, in answer to a question asked by a member of the deputation, said he did not know why the amount appropriated, in the estimates in 1893, for this purpose, had been cut out, and promised to investigate.

In connection with the promise made to the deputation, it may not be uninteresting to re-call the fact that during Hon. J. C. Patterson's term as Minister of Militia, when, on one occasion, he came to Kingston, to inquire into the necessity for certain repairs at Tete du Pont barracks, he was interviewed by your correspondent, and was asked if there was any likelihood of a drill-shed being built here in the near future. As the files of the MILITARY GAZETTE will show, he stated distinctly, that the department could not think of erecting a drill-shed in Kingston, until after new barracks had been built for "A" Field Battery. "The battery is in urgent need of new quarters, and until these have been provided, we can give no thought to building a drill-shed for the militia." Such were the words, as nearly as I remember them, that the then the minister used. But perhaps the present incumbent sees with a clearer eye, than did Hon. Mr. Patterson. So mote it be!

The 14th Batt. P.W.O.R., is (temporarily) no more. With the sanction of the Minister of Militia, the old corps has been disbanded. The intention is to re-organize it as a battalion of four companies, each of 60 men. For some time past, the corps has been handicapped by a scarcity of officers, and to get over the difficulty it has been decided to do away with the necessity for a larger number than can be obtained. It is intended that the re-organized corps shall be ready for drill when the season opens, re-invigorated, and strengthened by the overhauling.

If the officers desire that the battalion shall become what it should be, one of the best in the dominion, they will see that no secret societies, of religious or

political nature, are allowed to extend their influence to its ranks, and thereby destroy its efficiency. In the old battalion it was the boast of certain of the non-commissioned officers of one company, that no man professing a certain faith, could become a member of that company, and that nearly every man in the company belonged to a certain so-called religious, and political, secret society. In more ways than one this organization injured both the company referred to, and the entire corps. It is not claimed that the commanding officer was aware of the state of affairs, but some of the officers were cognizant of how things stood.

That the re-organized 14th will be entirely free from all such blighting influences as this, is the hope of one of the warmest friends, and most sincere well-wishers of the battalion.

There has been some talk, lately, among ex-members of the 14th of forming a Highland company in Kingston, in connection with the 47th Batt. The project is hopeless, however, as the expense would be far greater than is imagined, and funds could not be obtained. The outlook for the formation of a strong city company of the 17th, is however, exceedingly bright.

Lieut. W. E. Cooke, of "A" Field Battery has been promoted to the brevet rank of captain.

The deputation composed of Mayor Elliot and Ald. Skinner, that went to Ottawa last week to urge on the Government the construction of a new drill hall here, succeeded in impressing the Minister of Militia to such an extent that \$15,000 has been placed in the supplementary estimates to begin the work, which is to cost, in all \$25,000 to \$30,000. The hall is to be built on Government property.

VEDETTE.

Quebec

QUEBEC, 7th February, 1896.—The R. C. A. Quadrille Club gave another of their dances on the 24th ultimo, which was thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance, among others present being, Reg. Sergt-Major Lynden, Sergt-Major Barrington, Master Gunner Lavie, Q. M. S. Wood, and Sergts Lynden, Wood, Slade, Sutherland and Sellwood.

The R. C. A. Snowshoe Club proved themselves of great service in their efforts to aid in the carnival which took place last week. They were instrumental in carrying it to a success and were to be seen on every hand. In the carnival drive they supplied a car consisting of a fort upon which was mounted a gun somewhat similar to that in the Drill Hall, and which was fired at intervals. During the week the club gave an exhibition of fancy drill upon snowshoes. For this purpose a space was marked out on the Esplanade, and promptly at eight o'clock, the club arrived and took up their position, the bugle band being in attendance. Needless to state that a large number of the citizens and strangers were present to watch the manoeuvres, which were much enjoyed by all who witnessed them. The club was under the

command of Capt. O. C. Pelletier, R. C. A., who had Mr. Henri A. Panet, R. C. A., to assist in the drill. The various movements were carried out under the direction of Sergt-Major O'Grady.

An invitation was issued by Lieut-Col. T. J. Duchesnay, D. A. G., to the officers of the district, to attend a meeting at the R. C. A. Institute rooms for the purpose of seeing the new equipment invented by Deputy Surgeon Major Oliver, to take place on the 23rd Jan. In answer to which among others the following officers put in an appearance: Lieut-Colonels T. J. Duchesnay, D. A. G., C. E. Montizambert and J. F. Wilson, R. C. A., Geo. R. White, 8th Bn.; Majors, A. A. Farley and Rutherford, R. C. A., G. E. A. Jones and J. S. Dunbar, 8th Bn.; Major Hudon, Q. G. A., Major Hethrington, Q. O. C. H., Captains, Fages, V. B. Rivers, T. Benson, Imlah, of the R. C. A., W. C. H. Wood and H. J. Lamb, 8th Bn., F. Holloway and Ernest F. Wurtele, of the Retired list; Capt. Brocklesby, 55th Bn., Major C. Lindsay, R. L., and Messrs Henri A. Panet, H. C. Thacker, J. H. C. Ogilvy of the R. C. A., Capt. Thos. Argue, Quartermaster 8th Bn., etc.

Deputy Surg-Major Oliver gave a very interesting exhibition of his equipment and which was carefully considered by those present. It was regretted that no efforts had been made to have some other equipment present in order to better demonstrate the advantages of his invention.

On the 1st inst the military hockey match between the officers of the Quebec and Montreal Garrison took place in the skating rink St. Louis St., which resulted in a decided victory for the home team. A handsome silver tankard presented by the carnival committee, thus became the property of the Quebec Military Hockey Team.

The following composed the team:

QUEBEC		MONTREAL	
Lieut. R. Hale	Goal	Capt Cantlie	
Capt. C. Dunn	Point	Lieut. Butler	
Lieut. H. A. Panet	Cover	Lt. Armstrong	
Lieut. R. Davidson	Forward	Cpt Armstrong	
Lt. J. H. C. Ogilvy	"	Lieut. Dobbin	
Lieut. Champion	"	Lieut. Miller	
Capt. H. J. Lamb	"	Lieut. Oliver	

On the evening of the 1st inst, a supper was tendered to the visiting hockey team by some of their military friends in Quebec. The Garrison Club was selected for the purpose and at about eleven the following gentleman among others sat down in the club dining-room: Lieut.-Cols. J. F. Wilson, R. C. A., and G. R. White, 8th Bn.; Majors Hethrington, Q. O. C. H., and B. A. Scott, 61st Bn., Captains W. J. Ray, R. E. W. Turner, O. B. C. Richardson, H. J. Lamb, Ernest F. Wurtele, Majors J. S. Dunbar and G. E. Allen Jones, and Messrs. H. A. Panet, R. Davidson J. H. C. Ogilvy, etc. A very pleasant evening was spent, presided over by Lieut-Col. J. F. Wilson.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 5th inst, the Lewis equipment was exhibited in the room of the R. C. A. Institute and on which occasion a representative from the permanent militia was in attendance in order to better enable those present to

compare the two. A large number of officers were present in answer to an invitation issued by Lieut-Col. T. J. Duchesnay, D. A. G., at the request of Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele.

The test was a successful one and was witnessed by the following officers of the district: Lieut-Col. C. E. Montizambert, R. C. A. Forrest, District Paymaster, Geo. R. White, 8th Bn.; F. W. Gray, late Q. O. C. H.; Majors A. A. Farley and R. W. Rutherford; Captains Fages, V. B. Rivers, T. Benson, and Messrs. H. A. Panet, H. C. Thacker, J. A. Benyon and J. H. C. Ogilvy of the Royal Canadian Artillery. Surgeon Elliott and Capt. R. E. W. Turner of the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars; Major Boulanger, Quebec Field Battery; Lieut-Col. Roy, Major Levasseur, Capt. J. Ouellet (Adjutant) 9th Bn.; Majors G. E. Allen Jones and J. S. Dunbar, Capt. W. C. H. Wood, (Adjutant) O. B. C. Richardson, C. J. Dunn, Thos. Argue (Quartermaster) 8th Bn., Royal Rifles; Major Laurin, 87th Bn.; Capt. Brocklesby, 55th Bn.; Captains Ernest F. Wurtele, R. L.; some of the N. C. O.'s of the R. C. A. and others.

Quite a number of military men were in the city during carnival week, among others: Captain W. B. Carruthers, of Kingston, who was the guest of Major R. W. Rutherford, Citadel; Mr. B. H. O. Armstrong, Royal Engineers, at present out on leave; Capt. Heward, R. C. D. Winnipeg, etc.

The 8th Royal Rifles have completed their complement of captains by the promotion of Lieut. H. J. Lamb. This officer was gazetted to the corps on the 21st Dec. and promoted on the 18th January.

PATROL.

Montreal.

The estimates have been scanned with great care by many local officers in the hope of finding in them some reference to the establishment of a school of instruction here.

Nothing is visible to the naked eye referring to this subject, so that unless provision be made for this in the supplementary estimates it will have to be assumed that Montreal officers will still have to look to St. Johns for instruction.

There is no denying that the presence of a company of the R.R.C.I. here would do much to improve the local battalions. The example alone they would afford would be worth the expense, while the boom it would give the recruiting and military sentiment would prove to be no inconsiderable part of their usefulness.

A field day is announced for the 24th of May. This is welcome news. It is years since a field day on a large scale has been held in Montreal and this one will be looked forward to not only by the militia but by the citizens at large.

It is to be hoped that the battalions with headquarters anywhere near this city will be induced to take part in the parade which we would like to see take the shape of a defense of the city from a supposed attack and last a couple of days.

This could be counted as part of the corps by annual training and if carried out with system would prove most interesting and instructive. The manoeuvres could wind up by the regulation march past on Fletcher's field.

Your correspondent makes the suggestion for what it is worth and hopes the eye of some of the commanding officers interested may read and inwardly digest it.

It is said that the Province of Quebec Rifle Association has been promised a grant from the provincial government of two hundred dollars.

Shades of our local boodlers—why not two thousand?

St. Johns and the Richelieu River,

The Richelieu the Gateway to the Province from the United States.

The N. Y. Press of Sunday has a profusely illustrated article dealing with the militia equipment of Canada, and St. Johns as an objective point of attack. It is from the pen of Mr. Edgar Maurice Smith, of Montreal. On account of its local and general interest we reproduce it in full:

Although the majority of level-headed persons on both sides of the line are of the opinion that a war between the two great English speaking nations of the world is hardly within the range of probability, still it might come to pass over the Venezuela dispute. Anyway, it is worth knowing just how Canada is situated with respect to an invasion.

The permanent force of Canada seems absurdly small, consisting as it does of only 132 cavalry, 344 artillery and 321 infantry; or a total of 800 men. This handful is distributed throughout the vast Dominion, there being small schools of artillery or infantry at such important places as Quebec, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, Kingston, Fredericton, N. B., and St. Johns, P. O.

It may appear strange that such small bodies of men are kept in active service, but this is done chiefly to furnish schools for the volunteers who would otherwise be unable to procure efficient instruction. The permanent stations are therefore but as so many nuclei for the forming of that number of armies in the event of war.

Canada has twelve military districts, as follows: No. 1, London; No. 2, Toronto; No. 3, Kingston; No. 4, Ottawa; No. 5, Montreal; No. 6, St. Johns; No. 7, Quebec; No. 8, Fredericton; No. 9, Halifax; No. 10, Winnipeg; No. 11, Victoria, B. C.; No. 12, Prince Edward Island. There is a small standing force in most of these districts, but at the first prospect of war the active militia would at once be called out.

This numbers 35,035 men, and is made up of 2,125 cavalry, 3,807 artillery, 151 engineers and 28,942 infantry. The volunteers are at present only armed with the antediluvian Snider rifle, but a general change for the Lee-Netford has been decided upon by the Government, and the Quartermaster General is in England arranging for the necessary purchase.

In the War of 1812 an invasion upon Canada by the Richelieu River was one favored by the American officers, and there is no reason to suppose that any different opinion would be held by those now at the head of the forces. A few miles from the frontier near the village of Lacolle is a bridge that spans the river and connects the county of St. Johns with that of Missisquoi.

It is not probable that any attempt would be made by the defenders to retain this bridge, for though it might prove of inestimable value it would not be worth the risk of losing, and would therefore be demolished before the arrival of the enemy.

Six miles further down in the middle of the stream is the island known as Isle-aux-Noix (Nut Island), where stands the old fort that did such good service in days gone by. Though unoccupied save by a decrepit keeper, who loves to talk of his fighting days passed in the mutiny and the Crimea, the fort is still in fair condition. Through negligence a great part of the walls has crumbled away, but it would not be an over difficult job to put the place in sufficiently good repair to shelter a strong battery.

RIVER SWEEP BY CANNON.

The fort is so situated that a few cannon well mounted could sweep the river in every direction, and as the course of the Richelieu is straight, approaching boats would be exposed to this fire, while St. Johns, the headquarters of the Sixth military district, being only twelve miles distant, a force could be placed on the island at a few hours notice. The Fourteenth field battery would be at the disposal of the District Adjutant General, and this he would probably send to Isle-aux-Noix as temporary defenders under the command of a shrewd officer.

It would be no easy matter to capture the old fort, as an attacking army would be exposed on every side to a murderous fire. Land, moreover, is not more than a quarter of a mile distant, and troops there encamped would be compelled to throw up earthenworks to protect themselves. Of course the freezing of the river in winter would materially affect the complexion of things.

POINT OF ATTACK.

The first important resistance would be made at St. Johns, as the possession of this town would be as invaluable to the invaders as its retention would be necessary to the defenders. Once it fell, the highways to Montreal would be comparatively clear, as both the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways connect the place with the metropolis. The Central Vermont has its terminus there, and troops and supplies from any part of the Eastern States could be sent by rail to within sight of Montreal.

At St. Johns also commences the Chambly Canal, which makes a water connection between this part of the country and the St. Lawrence River, the Richelieu from here to the end of its course abounding in rapids to so great an extent as to make navigation impossible. The canal runs alongside the river of which it is in reality part, and is divided from it by a bank with the natural bank on the other side.

Being the head of the Sixth military district and the seat of the Third regiment Royal Canadian Infantry, St. Johns is never quite defenseless. The District Adjutant General would from the active militia have a force of 2,200 men, but this would necessitate the calling to St. Johns of all the regiments in the Sixth district.

Montreal, which is in the Fifth military district, could send out as many more men, and these city regiments are wonderfully efficient. Between four and five thousand troops would, therefore, be strongly entrenched at St. Johns, and could doubtless succeed in holding the place until the arrival of a British army.

For about three miles the approach to the town by water is open to a direct fire from the ramparts, where stands the remains of the celebrated St. Johns fort. One of the cannon that was operated so successfully from this point in the war of 1812 is still there, and is in good order. Within a stone's throw of the old fort is the barracks where the regiment of infantry is located under the command of Lieutenant Colonel d'Orsennens, the District Adjutant General.

THE FIRST FIELD OF BATTLE.

The small force of less than one hundred men is under the same regulations that govern the British army, and as a consequence is well equipped for an emergency. Should it at any time be necessary to call the active militia to St. Johns the men of the school would probably be judiciously distributed through the regiments as drill instructors, etc.

The large, roomy buildings of the St. Johns barracks are beautifully located on the Richelieu about a quarter of a mile above the town. Round about are extensive open fields devoid of trees where a large body of troops could be encamped. The country is flat, and an attacking force would be unassisted by any natural shelter, while the defenders could throw

up ramparts and quietly await the oncoming. It is certain that a desperate struggle would take place here, a struggle in which should the Canadians and British be successful, the Americans would be forced to beat a hasty retreat. If, however, the invaders should be victorious they would, in the capture of St. Johns, hold an important key to the situation.

EDGAR MAURICE SMITH.

Victoria, B. C.

ARTILLERY PASTIMES.

The Drill Hall Nightly a Scene of Activity Between Instruction and Recreation.

The members of the Garrison Artillery are constantly adding to the attractions afforded in the drill hall on Menzie St., and the latest features on the list are for the especial instruction and entertainment of No. 1 Company. On Feb. 4th they had the first of an intended series of shooting competitions for prettily designed silver spoons, turned out by Davidson Bros., and offered as prizes by the company association. The practice was with Morris tubes fitted in Martini rifles. Owing to the large attendance the programme had to be rather curtailed, but nevertheless the evening was very pleasantly spent.

The opening shot was kindly fired by Mrs. R. Ross Monro, wife of the enterprising captain now in charge of the company. The competition then proceeded by classes, the men having been so divided as to make it interesting to all.

In the first class Sergeant-Major Mulcahy was the winner, with a score of 30, which by the rules took precedence of another 30 made by Lieut. J. D. Taylor. Capt. Ross Monro scored 28 and Gunner W. H. Bailey 27.

There were two spoons for the second class, and the scores were close and decidedly creditable. The first went to Gunner C. Kenward, with 29 points, and the second to Corp. McLean, with 27. Next in order were Gr. R. Harrap 23, Gr. H. P. Dickinson 21, Lieut. D. B. McConnan 21, and Gr. L. B. Trimen 20.

Two promising recruits, Gunners F. Vigor and A. Shork, carried off the souvlairs for the third class, their respective scores being 21 and 22. Trumpeter C. Harris was close after them with 21.—The Colonist, Victoria.

Dominion Artillery Association.

The annual meeting of the Association will take place at Ottawa, Ont., on Tuesday, the 25th February inst. Hour and place will be advertised in the local papers. Revised rules will be submitted for consideration by committee appointed at last annual meeting. A full meeting is requested, as the proposed changes are important.

By order,

J. B. DONALDSON Major,
Secretary.

Ottawa

Mr. John Reade, the well-known litterateur of Montreal, has just been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature of Great Britain. This society was founded by George IV., and the poet Coleridge was one of its Fellows.

The Transvaal question is again assuming an ugly aspect, and it is learned from an official source that the British War Office, acting under orders from the Government, has made every preparation to send an army corps of twenty thousand men to South Africa.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Magazine vs. Single Shot Rifle.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE :

SIR,—“The object of a magazine rifle is to enable the soldier, at a critical moment, to fire a certain number of shots without having to re-load from the pouch.” Upon this “critical moment,” which marks the turning point in every battle, may hang the fate of a nation. The great importance of a magazine arm has been practically demonstrated in nearly every important campaign since the American war between the North and the South in 1861; notably in the Russo-Turkish war of 1877 at Plevna, where the Turks, with their Winchester repeaters, mowed down the Russians by hundreds as they advanced across the open to the attack.

Nearly every civilized nation has recognized the superiority of the magazine rifle by arming its troops with a weapon of this class, but the change was not made until a long series of exhaustive trials had afforded proof that the magazine was the best weapon for military purposes.

It is therefore a matter of surprise to find the Government, with the light of the experience and example of other nations, re-arming the militia with a “single loader.” The Martini-Enfield may be all that is claimed for it by its friends, yet in the eyes of the military world, troops armed with this weapon would be considered unequally matched against those with a magazine. Of course one can easily understand the marksman, whose mental vision is bounded by the stationary target of a rifle range, and a lengthy programme of valuable money prizes, being prejudiced in favor of a “single loader,” as it is the weapon best adapted for his purpose. It is the duty of the Government, however, to place in the hands of our country's defenders the rifle best adapted for the battle-field, the Lee-Metford or a Lee-Enfield magazine.

Yours faithfully,

J. R.

The Lee-Metford Rifle.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE :

SIR,—“Mark IV,” the *nom de guerre* of one of Montreal's best known rifleshoots, has a very interesting letter in the Montreal *Star* of Feb. 1st. Besides giving much information on the Martini-Henri, the Lee-Metford and the Martini-Enfield, better known in Canada as the Martini-Metford, “Mark IV” concludes that the Martini-Enfield is, in his opinion, by far the best rifle for our Canadian volunteers.

Now, Mr. Editor, the Martini-Enfield is a good rifle, but is it wise to overlook the decisions of every European nation, not one of which has dared to leave its armies armed with a single loader?

Is it wise to overlook the fact that our neighbors are providing their militia, as well as the standing army, with the best repeating small-bore they can find?

Does not “Mark IV” look too much into the beauties of the Martini-Enfield as a target weapon, and overlook the tactical advantages of the repeater?

True it is that the mechanism of the Lee-Metford is more complicated than that of the Martini-Enfield, but does not that reserve of seven shots, withheld until the decisive moment, outweigh all other considerations?

I should imagine that in action soldiers would not find the Martini-Enfield such a rapid loader. A charge of cavalry coming down on a thin, red line, might cause nervous fingers to fumble with the cartridge, to lose precious time, when with the repeating weapon the cut-off is opened—the material for seven rapid volleys is at hand, and perchance the fate of a campaign may be settled by this magazine.

Mr. Editor, I hope that we in Canada will not set ourselves up as knowing more than the combined military theorists of Europe, and decide on the purchase of a style of arm which is as antiquated as the Snider or muzzle-loader.

If it is a question of the care of the rifle, let more time be devoted to a study of its intricacies, let a few minutes be spared from parade drill to enable every militiaman to become familiar with the mechanism of his rifle, to see that it is properly cleaned and oiled before it is placed in its cupboard; but by all means let Canada be saved from the crime of placing an inferior arm in the hands of its militia.

“CANUCK.”

Montreal, Feb. 10th, 1896.

Annual Training.**Good Shooting and Practical Drill vs. Parade Ground Movements.**

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE :

SIR,—Now that the time is approaching for the different infantry battalions to put in their annual training, it seems appropriate to consider how that time may be utilized to the best advantage. Every one will admit that each battalion should be made into as perfect a “fighting machine” as the thirty-six hours allowed by the Government for the training of a city corps, or the twelve days for a rural corps will permit.

The question then arises in what manner should this training be carried out in order to give the best practical results.

Can the greatest fighting efficiency be attained by devoting all the period of training to settling up drill, the manual exercise, the polishing and cleaning of accoutrements, etc., in order to pass the critical eye of the inspecting officer? This is the *modus operandi* of the present. We all know it well; the corps turns out spick and span, pipe-clay reigns, metal flashes in the sun, and the band plays. The movements in close order are steady, the rifle exercises performed with snap and vim. But the show ends there.

If the rigid inspection should require the men to move in extended order, as never happens, the corps is simply not in

it, and as for fire discipline, the section commanders never heard of it.

Far be it from me to disparage the great and lasting benefits of the setting up drill which instils into a man the “instinctive habit of obedience to a word of command as coming from one who has the right and duty to give that command, and which has to be carried into his very limbs.”

Colonel Maurice tells us that “the instinctive obedience of a rank of soldiers to the order to turn ‘Right about,’ when that order sends them back into the ground where shells are bursting and where bullets are raining has been a power of fighting too great for us ever willingly to throw away.” And Colonel Harvey, “Great precision is required in squad, company, battalion, and brigade or divisional drill, in order to thoroughly train the soldier to habits of order and implicit obedience, and to obtain from him at the critical moment the greatest development of fire under the most careful supervision and control.”

But the former also writes, “that the only practical work is that which tends to prepare men, not for the inspection of some general on a parade ground, but for actual war. An army is doing ‘practical work’ in the preparation for its real duty, that of winning battles. It is employed on mischievous theoretical work, on false theory, when it is doing ‘anything else.’”

Cleanliness may be next to godliness, but that and steadiness on parade are not the greatest *desideratum*. Instance the superb fighting qualities of the Boers, and the incomparable Turkish infantry, who, if tradition is right, are anything but immaculate.

But we cannot expect to make our volunteers, with their thirty-six hours annual training, comply with the requirements of a rigid parade ground inspection, and also fighters with a knowledge of fire discipline, and how to shoot. We must choose between the two ideals; we cannot have both.

Is it possible to have a little of each, to sacrifice a little display and accuracy of movement to practical work? Cannot we have the battalions know that at least a little work in extended formation and fire discipline is expected of them at an inspection? And as for shooting, what a terrible power a regiment of good shots would be. But a rifleman cannot be made by an expenditure of twenty rounds per annum.

Paraphrasing an eminent German authority's words on the artillery, “skirmishers must in the first place hit, in the second place hit, and in the third place hit.”

We are told that Majuba Hill was lost by the Highlanders not re-adjusting their rifle sights from the first instance, and that as the Boers gradually stalked their prey the bullets whistled harmlessly over their heads, and that at the battle of St. Privat a German sergeant had sufficient presence of mind to see that as the men ad-

vanced they properly reduced their sights. This latter was considered a remarkable instance of presence of mind. It is said that during an action with quick firing weapons, those engaged are so engrossed by what is happening before them, a state bordering on catalepsy is produced. The Canadian militia is an apt and quick-witted body of men, and with any reasonable amount of training in skirmishing and shooting would soon become as such highly efficient, and no amount of "catalepsy" would prevent our non-coms. from doing other than that St. Privat sergeant under like circumstances.

As the surface of our Dominion is much broken by forests and streams, the battalions should be practiced as often as possible over broken country, and the accidents of ground explained to both officers and men.

Should war occur the militia would necessarily do much fighting in the bush, and knowledge of how to maintain cohesion would be imperative, especially in flank attacks, should we be the aggressors in an action. Here good shooting and the individual ability of leaders of small groups would tell.

Occasional field work would make it more interesting for all ranks.

E. B. W.

Sherbrooke.

All Quiet on the Richelieu,

The Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,

The extract below appears in the military column of the Gazette of this date:

"The following short communication has just been received, and refers to a matter that is evidently causing some unpleasantness. The following, it must be understood, is not from any party interested, or from St. Johns:—The little town of St. Johns is at present, much excited over the news that Capt. Fiset, of the Royal School of Infantry is, by 'desire' of the Honorable the Minister of Militia, to be transferred from St. Johns to Fredericton, to make room for Capt. Chinic, presently at Fredericton—the latter to take Capt. Fiset's place in St. Johns. We are not here to criticise the orders or 'desires' of the Honorable the Minister of Militia, but we find it very strange, not to say more, that Capt. Fiset should be made to change station three times in five years, when it is a well known fact that there are several officers, if not all, who have not changed station since their appointment. We are asked why should Capt. Fiset, who is a distinguished soldier of the British army and an efficient officer, and taken as such in every station he is sent to, be made a rolling stone to suit the views or whims of some brother officers? Why should he be put to the expense of paying out of his own pocket, all expenses pertinent to the transfer of himself and family, just to please Mr. so-and-so, and to make it more comfortable and pleasant for a family compact?"

In relation to the foregoing permit me to state that the "little town of St. Johns" is not at all excited over this matter. In fact until the announcement was made in the Gazette that Captains Fiset and Chinic were to change places, not a dozen people in St. Johns outside of the barracks knew about it. The motive for the change I am not acquainted with, but I have no doubt whatever it is made in the interests of the service. Officers are continually being changed from station to station, from depot to depot and no one ever thinks of raising a pow-wow about it, or talks of "family compacts" or "making it pleasant for Mr. So-and-So." This

is all the veriest twaddle. But more than this the correspondent of the Gazette is misleading in his statements. He declares that Capt. Fiset has been "made to change" three times in five years. Now as a matter of fact Capt. Fiset was moved to Toronto and then back again to St. Johns at his own request, and these are the only two changes he has made since he joined the corps. So he has little to complain of on this score. Capt. Chinic is senior to Capt. Fiset and is as good an officer as he is a perfect gentleman.

Yours, A VETERAN.

St. Johns, Feb. 15th, 1896.

Bisley Quarters.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

SIR.—I am pleased to see that the readers of your paper discussing the building of the permanent quarters at Bisley for the Canadian rifle teams, and I read the letter signed "Smokestack," which appeared in your last issue, with much interest. I would like to get as many expressions of opinion as possible from those interested in the matter and who have had practical experience as regards camping out at Bisley or Wimbledon.

I quite agree with "Smokestack" that the bellrooms are on the small size, but I had to condense the requirements for the building as much as possible, in fact some of the council of the D.C.R.A. suggested that the two houses be embodied in one—which would be decidedly inconvenient. When the D.C.R.A. have decided on the building of the houses, and the building committee has been formed, there will no doubt be a few alterations which will improve the houses, as the plans published are not working plans.

As regards dividing the officers from the N.C. O's and men, this was a only a suggestion, as the quartering of the team lies entirely with the commandant, who is guided and governed by the military regulations bearing on the above.

In conclusion I would like to hear from more of my shooting confreres, who take an interest in the building of permanent quarters, as their suggestions would be valuable.

Yours truly

M. POPE, Capt.
3 V. R. C.

The Flying Squadron.

This much talked-of squadron, which showed so clearly the efficiency of England naval reserve was commissioned in January 1896, in consequence of the then unsettled state of affairs, the following ships composing it:

H. M. S. "Revenge" battleship completed 1894, displacement 14,150 tons; I.H.P. 13,000; length 380 feet; beam 75 feet; maximum draught 27 feet 6 in.; speed 17.5 knots. Armour, partial belt of 18 inches, armament 4 sixty-seven ton guns in two armoured barbets, besides many quick firers, etc.

H. M. S. "Royal Oak," battleship completed 1891, displacement 14,150 tons; I. H. P. 13,000; length 380 feet; beam 75 ft; maximum draught 26 ft; speed 18.2 knots. Armour partial belt of 18 inches, armament 4 sixty-seven ton guns in two armoured barbets, besides numerous smaller quick firing guns, etc.

H. M. S. "Gibraltar," 1st class cruiser completed 1892, displacement 7,700 tons; I.H.P. 12,000; length 360 ft; beam 60 ft; maximum draught 23 ft 9 in.; speed 19.7 knots. Principal armament two 22 ton guns, besides numerous quick firers and machine guns

H. M. S. "Theseus," 1st class cruiser completed 1892, displacement 7,350 tons; I. H. P. 12,000; length 360 ft; beam 60 ft; maximum draught 23 ft 9 inches; speed 20 knots. Principal armament 2 twenty-two ton guns, besides quick firers and machine guns.

H. M. S. "Charybdis," 2nd class cruiser completed in 1893, displacement 4,360 tons; I.H.P. 9,000; length 320 feet; beam 49 ft 6 in.; maximum draught 19 feet; speed 19.5 knots. Principal armament two 6 inches quick firers, protected by steel shields and other lighter guns.

H. M. S. "Hermione," 2nd class cruiser was launched in 1893, displacement 4,360 tons; I.H.P. 9,000; length 320 ft; beam 49 ft 6 inches; maximum draught 19 ft; speed 19.5 knots.

These figures are all taken from the Navy and Army "special extra number," illustrating the flying and channel squadrons and giving exquisite photogravure reproductions of each ship, each plate being worth an excellent photograph.

Geo. Newnes Ltd, 10 Southampton street, London, are the publishers.

Royal Military College Club of Canada.

Office of the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer.

QUEBEC, 30th January 1896.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION, No. 1, 1896

NO. 1. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, the 29th of February 1896, at the Hotel Frontenac, Kingston, Ont.

Morning session, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Afternoon session, 2 p.m. to close of meeting.

NO. 2. ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner will be held on the evening of the above date, at the Hotel Frontenac, at 7:30 p.m.

Members desiring to stay at the hotel in question, will be granted a special rate of two dollars per day.

Members connected with the army or militia are requested to appear at the dinner in the Mess uniform of their respective corps or of that of the unattached list.

Members are requested to notify the Hon. Secretary, at their earliest convenience, if it is their intention of being present, in order that all necessary arrangements may be completed.

NO. 3. SUBSCRIPTION AND PROXIES.

Members are reminded that the annual subscription is due on the 1st January and are requested to remit the same.

Proxies cannot be accepted at the meeting unless subscriptions have been paid in full including the current year.

NO. 4. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

The following amendment to the By-Laws will be submitted at the meeting: Proposed by Mr. Francis Joseph Dixon, U. I.

Amend Article 12, Section 1, by striking out all the words after "except" and insert in lieu thereof the following "where otherwise expressed."

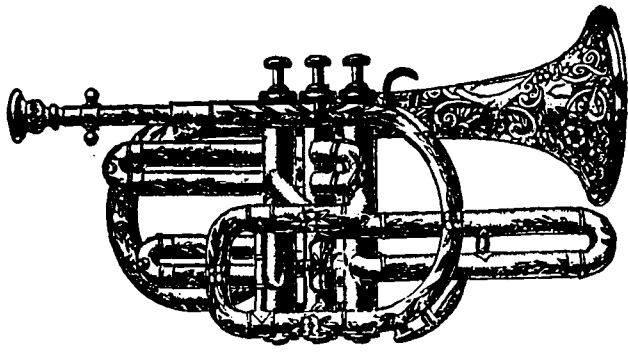
By order,

ERNEST F. WURTELE,

Captain R. I.

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer,
Royal Military College Club of Canada.

A despatch from Ottawa says that it is practically settled that Col. M. Aylmer will be Adjutant-General. Lieut.-Colonel Otter, of Toronto, is to be made a full colonel.



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THE CANADIAN
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(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)
ESTABLISHED 1885.

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Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of the GAZETTE.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the editor, P. O. Box 2170, Montreal

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 15, 1896.

Notes and Comments

The 100th Regt. (Royal Canadians) Mentioned in the Senate.

In the course of an address in answer to the speech from the Throne, to the Senate, the Hon. Mr. Boulton, Lieut.-Col., made the following remarks, in answer specially to that part of the speech presaging a more vigorous militia policy.

"The only other subject which I wish to touch upon is the clause which appears in the address referring to the intention to provide for the better arming of our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences. We are justly proud of our Mounted Police and their effectiveness in assisting in the peaceful settlement of our large territories. Our small standing force is steadily improving in efficiency. A movement is on foot to induce the British government to establish the depot of the Royal Canadian regiment raised in Canada some 38 years ago, that Canadians may have the opportunity of joining the Imperial service. I hope it may be successful. As an old soldier, who left Canada in 1858 with that regiment, I can express my feelings on this clause of the address more freely because I thoroughly realize the importance of arming our militia

properly. At present they are armed with an obsolete weapon, and there is no use keeping up a force on paper merely. The efforts we have put forth from year to year to induce the people of Canada to be more liberal in their support of the militia have up to the present been unsuccessful. Unfortunately, the condition of the world at the present moment affords ample justification to the government to make an improvement now. I only hope that they will do their utmost to put the force on a better footing, in recognition of the single-minded efforts which the members of the force are themselves making to improve the efficiency of the service and make it an honour to the country."

What explosive shall we use with our new small bore rifles is a momentous question. Rumours come to us from all sources that cordite, which is now used by the English army, has all manner of defects. How true they are, experience only can tell but sure it is that the Government must take them into account and thoroughly investigate them before committing themselves to its use.

We append a squib clipped from an English journal, which is a sample of many which are published in all the service papers.

"Is cordite, or is it not, a thoroughly reliable satisfactory explosive? Not so long ago we were assured that the powder had withstood extreme heat and cold without deteriorating in the least; yet now comes a report from India to the opposite effect. When kept at a high temperature, such as is normal in many parts of India, it throws off, it is said, nitrous fumes, which destroy the fulminating composition in the cap, and render the cartridges innocuous. As any such defect in the powder is a question of vital importance to us, most of our campaigns being carried on under the conditions of very high temperature, the matter ought to be at once inquired into.

Captain J. Sinclair, formerly M. P., for Dumbarton, Scotland, has been appointed secretary to the Governor General, vice, Arthur J. L. Gordon Esq., resigned. Capt. Sinclair formerly served in the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, and during

the term of the last Imperial Government (Liberal party) was assistant private secretary to Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, Secretary of State for War.

"Alas That It Were So."

The Columbus "Despatch" of Jan. 24 reports the paper read before the lyceum at Columbus Barracks by Capt. James M. Burns, 17th Inf., on "The Necessity for Lake Coast Defenses." Capt. Burns referred to the report that England has on hand in Canadian ports merchant vessels of unusual solidity which can be turned within a few hours into ships of war, guns for their use stored in convenient places, false decks beneath which are the heavy decks and on these real deck tracks and other appliances for the handling of guns have been placed. Capt. Burns said: "Should a war break out now we should be little better prepared for defense on the lakes than our forefathers were in 1812. The Canadians have under construction a canal from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay, which will allow their vessels to sail for Chicago and Duluth without a single gun to interrupt their voyage. It is currently reported and generally believed that a fleet of small gunboats is constantly kept in the harbor of Newfoundland for use on the lakes in case of necessity, and it is a well-known fact that large stores of munitions of war are constantly kept on that island. In case of war what might England do? Blockade the mouth of the St. Lawrence River and send a fleet of gunboats up the river to operate on the lakes, a movement that would be opposed by our poor old revenue cutter Michigan, carrying one gun. England would also send an army to protect the Welland Canal." Capt. Burns here quoted from two army officers in Canada, whose statements were to the effect that in case of war they would take Detroit, as they did before. They also said "If in case Lord Salisbury believes war inevitable, he will lull Americans into inactivity by professed yielding, while he assembles his ships off the coast of Newfoundland; they will suddenly appear under the citadel of Quebec, and on the same day all military organizations will receive orders. The Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railroads, really military lines, will transport these men—there will be 40,000 of them in the two provinces—to the Welland Canal, Windsor, Sarnia (opposite Port Huron,) and the "Soo" and before the American nation knows anything about it the fleet will be bombarding Cleveland while another portion will lie off Detroit and blow it out of existence. Then the ships will reduce Chicago, Milwaukee and the other lake cities. Among the military of Canada there is an unmistakable looking forward to war, while in Detroit everything else, even the street car fight, is forgotten."—Army and Navy Journal, New York.

The sergeants of the Berkshire Regiment, stationed at Halifax, N. S., at a sleigh-ride on Saturday, drove through the city carrying a number of flags, the largest of which was a United States flag.



Royal Military College Notes.

Captain Edmund C. Hamilton, 3rd Hussars, who joined the Imperial service on the 5th of September, 1888, from the Royal Military College, Kingston, has resigned his commission.

Lieut. George Dalbiac Luard, Scottish Rifles, who received his first commission in the Northumberland Fusiliers on the 7th of October, 1885, from the Royal Military College, Kingston, but in the following December transferred to the Scottish Rifles, has recently been promoted captain in the last named regiment.

Major E. Roban, Royal Engineers, who was instructor and professor at the Royal Military College, Kingston, from August, 1882, to September, 1886, and who for the past five years has been superintending engineer, Portsmouth Lockyard, has been appointed to the important position of Director of Works at the Admiralty.

Captain and Adjutant G. S. Duffus, R.A., who received his first commission from the Royal Military College, Kingston, on June 26th, 1882, has been appointed a Staff Captain under the Colonel on the Staff, commanding the Royal Artillery, Dominion of Canada.

An exchange has been sanctioned between Kenneth J. R. Campbell, 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers), and Captain H. Peregrine Leader, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Captain Campbell was a cadet at Kingston College from September 30th, 1879, to November 16th, 1881. In August, 1883, he joined the Imperial service as a private soldier, and after serving three years in the ranks was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Lancaster Regiment. On July 6th, 1887, he was transferred to the 7th Dragoon Guards, and on August 1st, 1888, he joined the 6th Dragoon Guards and obtained the rank of captain, August 28th, 1895. From April, 1890, until quite recently, Captain Campbell has been in colonial employment with the Gold Coast Constabulary and the Niger Coast Protectorate.

Captain Leader obtained his first commission from the Royal Military College, Kingston, in September, 1885, and was promoted captain on December 9th, 1894. Captain Leader was extra aide-de-camp to the general officer commanding, Egypt, from April 20th, 1890, to December 31st, 1890.

If Canada Were Not British.

The February issue of the Canadian Magazine contains an article from the pen of Sir Charles Tupper on "The Navy Question and the Colonies," in which he says:

When her borders were invaded by a horde of lawless men from the United

States, a call for volunteers was eagerly responded to, and in less than twenty-four hours 14,000 men were converging upon their foes, who were driven back to confusion. When the insurrection in the North-west of half-breeds and Indians took place in 1885, 4,000 volunteers from the eastern provinces left their homes in mid-winter and crushed it, at an expense of several lives and \$6,000,000, without calling upon the troops at Halifax for a man. Major-General Brackenbury has put on record the fact that the success of the Nile expedition was due to the French-Canadian voyageurs, who responded with alacrity to the call of Lord Wolesley, who knew by experience their value. A short time ago, when there were threatenings in the east, I was directed to place a regiment of Royal Canadian Infantry at the service of the Imperial Government, to be maintained by Canada. The protection of the flag of England is of inestimable value to Canada, and is deeply prized, but I deny that Canada costs this country a single dollar for any purpose whatever, either civil, military or naval. Does any intelligent man believe that if Canada were driven out of the empire, and compelled to become part of the American republic, that England, which now possesses the finest ports and the most valuable coal mines on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, would be strengthened by having neither the one nor the other on the continent of North America, or that her power would be increased by having the arsenals and port of the Gibraltar of America in the hands of a foreign power, advanced 600 miles nearer this country than at present, or that her trade would be improved by driving 5,000,000 of loyal Canadians, at no distant date to be 50,000,000, behind the McKinley tariff? No! instead of being able to reduce her army by a man, or her navy by a ship, she would be compelled to increase both largely to maintain her present power and influence.

Cordite.

The Naval and Military Record of Portsmouth questions its value. Canadians should hesitate before committing themselves to its use. The question of cordite will again be raised in Parliament in the coming session. More than one member of the Government, and especially Mr. Hanbury, as well as many Unionists, expressed themselves as not satisfied with cordite, and it will be curious to notice what these members' views are now that they are in a position of more responsibility. It is known that even in the War office the ammunition is not unanimously approved, and the Government will be asked these two questions:—"Is it true that 2,000 rounds will affect the Metford barrel to such an extent that its accuracy will be then impaired? Is the statement accurate that the new Enfield barrel—the Martini-Enfield being the new volunteer rifle—will require cleaning after several rounds have been fired? The two questions have been iterated and reiterated with increasing emphasis by certain experts, and if they cannot be met by an official denial the conclusion will be forced upon the public that the powder is injurious to the barrel. These considerations are apart from climatic influence, and do not affect the debatable question of the size and shape of the bullet, which have not proved much in the way of slaying the enemy. By-the-by, according to all accounts the new explosive with which shells were charged at Toulon on board the Amiral Duperré, has given remarkable results in the first experiments. It is stated that melinite is "mere gun powder" compared with this explosive.

Report of the Deputy Minister

The following is the report of the Dep. Min. of Militia and Defence for the year ending Jan. 30th 1895.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

OTTAWA, 30th December, 1895.

The Honourable A. R. DICKEY,
Minister of Militia and Defence.

SIR.—I have the honour to submit herewith the reports of the different officers of the Department of Militia and Defence for the financial year ended on the 30th June last.

All these reports show a steady increase in efficiency, in the Permanent Corps and Active Militia of the country. The permanent force, although reduced in numbers, has given instruction in the various military schools throughout the Dominion; and applications for courses of instruction in these schools have been increasing. The good work thus performed through the instrumentality of our small but efficient permanent force has, to a large extent, raised the standard and consequent value to the country of our militia officers. There does not appear to have been any falling off in the numbers of city corps and rural battalions that have drilled for 1891-95. The numbers are in excess of those for the preceding year. Rural corps are at a disadvantage, as they are not called out for drill every year, but still these reports will show that rural corps in camps of instruction have proved to become efficient in a very short course of training.

It is to be regretted that the whole of our Active Militia cannot be drilled every year. They could, by being exercised for twelve days in each year, become, with the instruction given by means of the Permanent Corps, quite efficient, and available for active military duty in the field at very short notice.

There has been no change in the manner of procuring clothing and all the other articles required for the use of the Force. This has been done by contract in all practical cases, and all purchases of clothing and necessaries have been made in the Dominion. The details of issues can be seen in the report of the Director of Stores.

A list of works that have been carried on during the fiscal year, for maintenance and repairs of military properties, will be found in the report of the Acting Architect of the Department.

The Government Cartridge Factory has lately passed through a crisis. Following the purchase of a lot of Martini-Metford rifles, orders were given for the purchase, in England, of the required machinery for the manufacture of the 303 ammunition, and the Superintendent of the factory was sent to England to supervise the manufacture, under the orders of the Department, of this new machinery. All the new plant has been received at the factory, and has turned out to be of superior quality in all respects. At this stage, Lt.-Colonel Prevost, the Superintendent, was stricken down by disease, and I regret to say that his death followed very shortly, and the factory was thus deprived suddenly of the services of a very superior officer. No time was lost in repairing this severe blow to the establishment; an officer was selected, who is now following a course of technical instruction in England, and will shortly return with all necessary qualifications to carry on this important work.

I take this opportunity recording my appreciation of the excellent service rendered by the late Lt.-Col. Prevost, and my regret at the loss which the Department has sustained in his death. From the organization of this factory for the production within our Dominion of the ammunition required for the Militia Force, Lt.-Colonel Prevost had been in charge of the establishment; and to his untiring care and energy, with the intel-

ligent skill which he had always shown, has been due the perfection to which the factory and its work have been brought.

The following is an abstract statement of the financial affairs of the Department for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1895 :

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Of the Department of Militia and Defence, or the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1895.

EXPENDITURE	\$	cts.
Pay of General Officer and Adjutant General.....	6	600 00
Pay of staff, permanent corps and active militia, including allowances..	628,430	61
Salaries and wages of civil employees..	67,200	00
Salary of an inspector of stores.....	633	00
Military properties, works and buildings.....	125,857	08
Warlike and other stores.....	51,099	40
Modern firearms.....	68,083	69
Clothing and necessaries.....	114,997	68
Provisions, supplies and remounts....	150,654	28
Transport and freight.....	53,843	78
Grants in aid of Artillery and Rifle Associations and Bands and Military Institutes.....	34,675	00
Miscellaneous and unforeseen contingencies.....	14,916	42
Royal Military College of Canada.....	64,568	94
Dominion Cartridge Factory.....	53,594	21
Monuments for battlefield of Canada..	8,465	00
Defence of Esquimalt, B. C. :— Dominion contribution towards capital expenditure for works and buildings..		
Pay and allowances of a detachment of Royal Marine Artillery or Royal Engineers.....	127,500	00
Gratuity to T. Rainsford.....	1,000	00
Cancellation of leases—Barriefield, Kingston.....	1,500	00
Grant towards a monument, Toronto Volunteers, N. W. Territories Rebellion, 1885.....	1,000	00
Total.....	1,574,013	76

PENSIONS.	No.	
Rebellion, 1885.....	99	19,366 26
Fenian Raids, &c.....	20	2,984 00
Veterans, war of 1812.....	3	120 00
Upper Canada Militia war of 1812.....	21	1,800 00
Total.....		24,270 26

REVENUE.	
Canal.....	1,818 92
Ammunition.....	\$10,136 24
Stores and clothing.....	4,637 83
Miscellaneous.....	1,341 31
Rents.....	4,055 60
Royal Military College.....	20,170 98
	19,274 05
Total.....	41,263 95

(NOTE—As our readers are aware since the above report was written, the Government has announced its policy of drilling the active militia every year.)

HER BROTHER.

Who comes to greet me when I call
And with my hat plays indoor ball
And chases it across the hall?
Her Brother.

Who runs to proffer me a chair
And has a bent pin lying there
And tells his sister if I swear?
Her brother.

Who fills my pockets full of coal
And calls attention to a hole
That's worn entirely through my sole?
Her brother.

Who nails my rubbers to the floor
And from the water urn doth pour
Into their depths a quart or more?
Her brother.

Who steals behind me on tip-toe
Just when I'm talking soft and low
And pipes serenely : "Is that so?"
Her brother.

Who will not go to bed betimes
But on my knee each evening climbs
And holds me up for all my dimes?
Her brother.

Who was it that her father yanked
Upstairs last night and soundly spanked?
It was, it was—ye gods be thanked—
Her brother.

New York District Attorney Fellows yesterday endorsed the papers which, when already signed by Justice Smyth, of the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court, will dismiss the indictment upon which Erastus Wiman was held and convicted of having forged the signature of E. W. Bullinger to a cheque for five thousand dollars

A Russian Warship.

The Armoured Cruiser Rurik.

During the visit of the Russian armoured cruisers Rurik and Dimitri Donskoi to Portsmouth, a few semi-official entertainments have been given by way of shewing English hospitality, and the Russian sailors have been allowed to go ashore to see the town, but there has been no official recognition of the visit in the way of banquets and conducting the officers over the arsenal, nor has the Rurik, the pride of the Russian navy, been converted into a show ship for the benefit of the English. Had not the Russians built the Rurik probably we should never have designed the Powerful and Terrible; and though vague reports reached this country as to the enormous fighting power of this gigantic cruiser, I have as yet seen no description of the vessel that conveys an adequate idea of her enormous importance as a unit in a fleet. To convey an adequate idea of the capabilities of this ship it may be best to drop technicalities, and there is a second and overpowering reason for doing so. I do not know a word of Russian, and my guide could only give me the technical terms in his own language. Now and then we tried French, but we became hopelessly mixed.

Both in the Rurik and the Dimitri Donskoi the Russians evince their abiding faith in yards and masts. They certainly give a rakish appearance to the ships, though they are useless for fighting purposes, and before going into action these gigantic spars would be dropped overboard. In peace time, however, they are an ornament—nothing more. You see no marines as you enter the Rurik, but two bluejackets are at the entry port with fixed bayonets. You climb the almost perpendicular brow, wet and slippery with rain, and spring over a two-foot chasm—between the bayonet—and declare your business. The men with the bayonets are puzzled, but an officer who stands by knows a little English, and is steep to the eyebrows with that politeness which is the characteristic of a Russian gentleman. His French is better than mine; his English not so good—so I think; but he gathers that I want "copy" and then hands me over to a young lieutenant who speaks English fluently. We promenaded the upper deck, which reminds one of the days when English ships were things of beauty and not everlasting mazes. From one end of the upper deck to the other there is on either side a clear promenade. A thousand people might dance at a ball without crushing, and my guide tells me that he and another officer are in the habit of taking bicycle exercise there when the day's work is done. I mentioned this subsequently to some of our officers, and they smiled incredulously. They have not seen the upper deck of the Rurik.

There are three principal decks in the Rurik, upper, battery, and main—but there are three decks below these, into which we did not penetrate. But on each deck the visitor is struck with the enormous amount of spare space. The complement consists of 27 officers, 700 men, and 35 musicians, but there is no overcrowding; everywhere there seems to be room enough and to spare, and yet the Rurik is of the same tonnage as the In-

flexible, and carries 25 per cent. more crew, while the English ship, with all her complement on board, is greatly overcrowded. After leaving the upper deck we first visit the ward-room, which is designed to suit the cultured tastes of Russian officers. The *salle à manger* forms but a third of the apartment, and you pass through archedways in the bulkhead into the larger section, which constitutes a luxurious drawing-room. There the officers assemble after dinner, and music reigns. As we pass through a selection of Beethoven's lies upon the piano, and as we glance at the instrument the officers began humming the tune. By the side of the wardroom, which is larger by far than any I have seen in the biggest English ships, are the officers' cabins. We are all familiar with the character of cabin in an English man-of-war—clean, tiny, cool, and tastefully furnished. But the cabins in the Rurik are sumptuous in the extreme. I mentioned to my guide that the Dimitri Donskoi was a fine ship. "Yes," he said, "but she is not the Rurik;" and he said it with an expressiveness that indicated that the Rurik was incomparable. And that is the idea which the officers have carried with them in upholstering their cabins. While you find nowhere a gaudy display of wealth, you readily observe that no expenditure has been spared in making these cabins the delightful habitations of the officers while they are sea. The pride that the officers take in their ship is here carried to the utmost extreme.

We pass down to the main deck, with the view of working our way upwards, and first come upon the refrigerator, where the officers' provisions are stored. There is no ice inside the store, but the thermometer shews that the temperature is eight degrees below zero. The apartment is chilled by the cold air that is pumped into it, but at the moment of my visit the engine was inoperative, otherwise the thermometer would have marked 22 degrees below zero. And yet standing as we were on the deck the air was oppressively warm, for the ship is heated throughout with hot water pipes. We pass right aft and see the Whitehead torpedo gun, and then look forward. There is no obstruction to the view, and that is the peculiarity of the three principal decks, for the officer on duty on the port or starboard side can obtain at a glance a complete view of all that is going on on his side of the ship. My guide explains that there is a torpedo discharge right aft and forward and two discharges abeam, and then we go to the engine-room, which is about amidships on the main deck. We linger for awhile over the engine-room admiring its cleanliness and brightness, but, above all, the wisdom of the designer in not cramping the engine builder for space, a great flood of light from a skylight, as expansive as the engine-room, dispenses with the need of the electric light, and lingering at this spot we discuss the capacity of the engines. They have propelled the ship at the rate of 19½ knots, but this was exceptional. Twelve knots is the economical speed, demanding only 52 revolutions, and at this speed the vessel can travel 20,000 knots without coaling. Then there is absolutely no vibration, as a 12 knots bicycle exercise can be taken on the upper deck in a fairly smooth sea. The Rurik had a trying time in crossing the German ocean, and could not make more than two knots an hour, but, thanks to her bilge keels, she did not roll more than 10 degrees, and then she was handicapped, for only three of her eight boilers were going.

The position of the bunkers was pointed out, but the means of filling them did not seem quite obvious, and it was explained that the ship was always coaled from out-

side, which may in some measure account for the scrupulous cleanliness of the vessel. In the fore part of the main deck is a spacious bathroom, where the men are compelled to go through a complete ablution every Saturday; but the 700 men pass through the water in six hours, so ample is the accommodation. Here, too, we see the condensers. On no account will the commanding officer allow water to be shipped from the shore. He tried it experimentally on the Neva, and the officers and men sampled it as they would champagne or vodka, only to declare that it did not suit the palate, and so all the fresh water is condensed on board. Rising to the battery deck we pass from subjects that are of human to others that are of inhuman interest. When we look at the guns my guide remarks that on this deck there are no less than sixteen 6-in quick-firers in clear view, but he passes to one, which is a sample of three others on this deck, and to which attaches some curiosity. The gun lies parallel with the ship, and not at right angles like the others. Above it is lifting tackle. Fire that gun as it now lies, and it would blow to smithereens a line of officer's cabins. Now in measuring the strength of a ship it is customary to count the muzzles of the guns that are visible; but in the Rurik four 6-inch quick-firers are kept out of sight. In going into action these weapons would be slewed back with the surmounting tackle, remounted, and the gun port would fly open, while four hitherto invisible guns would come into play. The wisdom of the arrangement is not quite obvious, as the number of guns can be ascertained from any standard naval work. Next my guide hands me a magazine rifle that holds four projectiles. The weapon, like the ship, the engines, and the big guns, is of Russian manufacture. It is no heavier to handle than the Lee-Metford, and as I open it and examined it carefully I am bound to pay a tribute to the armourer, or whoever is his counterfeit in the Rurik, for keeping his rifles in a cleaner state than any foreign rifle I have yet seen.

We next handle one of the 6-inch guns, train it, elevate and depress it, open the breech and close it and everything works with the utmost smoothness. My guide tells me that one man can easily work a gun; but they always put four men in the gun's crew. He also explains the method of bringing up the ammunition, which is on the principal of the "railway" system in use in drapers' shops; but electricity is in general use in preference to hydraulics. The machinery is equal to supplying eight projectiles per gun per minute, which is quite fast enough for the ship that has to stand up against such a rain of 100lb. projectiles. On the upper deck are four 8in. breech-loaders, also made in Russia, and the action of the breech greatly facilitates rapid firing, while these, which constitute the heaviest artillery on board, are assisted by six 120-millimetre guns and other light weapons. In examining the guns in the battery one is greatly struck by the absence of that impedimenta which is calculated to make destructive *débris*, and as the weapons are themselves protected by sponsons they are secure against light ordnance. With ten inches of steel armour, therefore, the Rurik can deal a smashing broadside and can resist practically everything but the heaviest ordnance.

Below the main deck the ship is ventilated by means of twenty-two electric motors, so that the atmosphere is constantly undergoing change. All the decks are so lofty that there is no necessity to stoop in any part of the ship, and, from a sanitary point of view, this is one

of the highest advantage, but it has its drawbacks, as the ship, with her enormous length, stands high out of water, presenting a wide target for the enemy. Waiving this objection the Rurik is one of the most formidable fighting engines afloat.—*Naval and Military Record*.

From Service Exchanges.

A. R. M. C. Man Decorated.

Captain John Irvine Lang, Royal Engineers, whose name appears in the New Year's Honour Roll as a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George for services in connection with the Railway Survey and delimitation of the Western Boundary of the Gold Coast Colony, is one of the several graduates of the Royal Military College of Canada who has come well to the front in the Imperial Service. The descendant of an old Yorkshiro family settled in Canada after the war of 1812, Captain Lang entered the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ontario, in 1879, and graduating with honours in 1883, was gazetted as a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in June of that year. After passing through the usual two year's course in Chatham he was sent to the War Office, and was subsequently made A. D. C. to Sir Andrew Clarke, Inspector of Fortifications, and on the expiration of this appointment, was appointed to British Columbia to carry out the surveys in connection with the defences of that portion of the Empire. His work was so well done that on his return to England he was selected for special duty on the Gold Coast, and has now been rewarded for his important services in connection with the Boundary Commission and his extensive surveys in the surrounding district. Capt. Lang, like his countrymen generally, is a man of splendid physique, and like all those who at the Royal Militia College of Canada have gained the coveted prize of a commission in the Royal Engineers, has justified the confidence of the Imperial authorities in their appreciation of the splendid training of four years duration which cadets receive at that important institution. Captain Lang is now on the Staff of the School of Military Engineering, Chatham, as Assistant-Instructor in Estimating and Construction.—*The Broad Arrow*.

Canada Take Notice.

The State of New York at the last election voted to spend \$9,000,000 in improving the canals of the State, and within two years their depth will be increased to 8 feet 3 inches and the locks will take boats 17 feet 10 inches wide and 226 feet long. It is proposed to ask Congress to appropriate \$2,000,000, to be expended in still further widening the locks so as to take vessels of 23 feet beam, thus making the width the same as on the Delaware and Raritan Canal locks, through which the torpedo boat Cushing has just passed. This will allow small torpedo boats to be sent into Lake Ontario via Oswego, and into Lake Erie via Buffalo.—*Army and Navy Journal*, N. Y.

Individual Training.

H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, in announcing the arrangements for training the troops at Aldershot during the present year, directs "that during company training more attention than heretofore shall be paid to the individual instruction of the soldier, and to improving his capacity of thinking and acting for himself." The company training is to be completed in the spring, and there will be no autumn course as hitherto. Physical, spring, and company drills will be conducted currently with it, and training will not be suspended on Saturdays. Night operations by battalions

and brigades are to be carried out between 20th March and 15th April. Minor operations and field days for the whole of the troops will begin about 1st July, and be continued till the manoeuvres which, it is anticipated will this year be in the neighborhood of Aldershot. The force at present at the camp under His Royal Highness's command consists of three regiments of cavalry, three horse and six field batteries, two field parks, and depôt, a mounted detachment, two bridging troops, a telegraph division, four field companies, and baloon depôt of Royal Engineers; 15 battalions of infantry, 13 companies of the Army Service Corps, three companies and two depôts of the Medical Staff Corps, and three companies of the Ordnance Store Corps—in all about 20,000.—*The Broad Arrow*.

Infantry Equipment.

At this time, when the reports as to the mode of carrying the infantry soldier's equipment have been so adverse in the reports of the Duke of Connaught, Lord Methuen, and Lord Ralph Kerr, it is interesting to know that a trial equipment is being experimented on at Maryhill by the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders. The experimental pack is fixed on the shoulders by metal hooks, and the weight is entirely a downward pressure on the shoulders, without any straps constraining the respiratory or other organs. The back plate is designed to prevent "wobbling," which is a source of fatigue, and the whole equipment can be taken off in a second when halted and as easily replaced. This new pack is the invention of an officer in Glasgow.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

Reorganization of British Cavalry.

An elaborate scheme for the reorganization of the British cavalry serving at home has been drawn up by the Inspector-General of the Cavalry for submission to the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of State for War. For the present it is not desirable to do more than indicate the broad lines of the scheme. In order to overcome the difficulties which commanding officers of regiments on home service have to encounter, which difficulties we have pressed on the notice of those in authority for some time past, it is proposed under the new scheme to concentrate brigades of three regiments each at Aldershot, Canterbury, and Colchester. Each regiment will be brought up to a greater strength than that which is now usual on the home establishment, and organized in three squadrons with an additional depôt squadron attached for training of remounts and recruits. As a general depôt for cavalry Canterbury will be abolished. It is not proposed that the brigades shall always remain at the centres named, but for administrative purposes they will at all times be nominated the Aldershot, Canterbury, and Colchester Brigades. By degrees many of the isolated stations would be abolished, whilst the Irish garrisons would be provided for among the regiments in the lower establishment—those lately returned from abroad with a large proportion of young soldiers in their ranks who require to be "licked into shape" before they are brought into brigade with other corps, or expected to operate with the other arms.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

The New Dynamite Gun.

Experiments on an extensive scale were carried out in New York harbour with the new dynamite gun. The gun was loaded with a shell weighing 350 lbs, containing a charge of 100 lbs of nitrogelatin. This discharge of the gun carried the projectile to a point three miles distant, where it struck a rock cliff and exploded, tearing a hole in the face of the solid rock 6 ft. deep and 3 ft. in diameter. A projectile containing a charge

of 500 lbs. of nitro-gelatine was fired, so as to strike the surface of the water 2,100 yards from the gun; the result was equally satisfactory. The shell exploded on coming in contact with the water, sending a column of water high into the air. The explosion was felt a distance of 30 miles. The force projecting the shells is compressed air, which is obtained from a power house-situated at a point a mile from the scene of the experiments and concealed below ground. The air is transmitted through pipes, and will carry a shell containing 100 lbs. of nitro-gelatine a distance of three miles; a very accurate aim can be obtained. Five shells fired on Saturday in quick succession dropped on a sandbank inside a parallelogram seven yards long by 5 ft. broad. The gun was fired and loaded at intervals of only 10 seconds: the gun became colder instead of hotter by the rapidity of the fire owing to the vacuum formed in the barrel. The gun need not be sighted, but in a measure finds its own range automatically—that is, the entire surface of New York bay is divided into imaginary squares; to each square a different elevation corresponds, which elevation can be given by touching an electrical button with a number corresponding to the square to be covered. The effect of the bursting of a shell alongside a ship is as disastrous as when it is imbedded in her hull. The Government is so well satisfied with the result of Saturday's experiments, that it has declared its intention of having these guns mounted at various points along the coast.—Naval and Military Record.

"Hands Off."

Music on the march to battle has from time immemorial stirred the savage and civilised man to deeds of valour, but patriotic songs in time of feverish excitement may do irreparable harm. Remembering Moltke's maxim, that it is the fury of the populace and not the wisdom of kings that causes war, if trouble is to be averted a new song of the "Don't want to fight but by Jingo if we do" type is not wanted. But whether we want it or not, it has come. People went to Daly's Theatre on Saturday night fully aware that a new patriotic song was to be introduced into the "Artists Model," and we have no doubt that many went fully intent upon improving the occasion by a patriotic demonstration. Everybody in the theatre were on tiptoe of expectation until the song written by Mr. H. Hamilton and set to music by Mr. F. Rosso was sung by Mr. Haydon Coffin. Then full vent was given to the pent-up feelings of the audience, and a scene of the wildest excitement followed. As the first chorus with its stirring and martial air ended, the pit and gallery rose to their feet and simply yelled with delight. The song is entitled "Hands off," and to give it greater effect it is introduced in the yeoman's dance scene. Here is the first verse—

England to arms. The need is nigh
The danger at your gate.
In long array your foes ally
A league of greed and hate.
Not ours the crime of war accurst;
But once let war begin,
They'll have to kill the lion first
Who'd wear the lion's skin.

The chorus evoked louder and louder cheering each time it was rendered:—

Hands off each of you,
Hands off all!
Boers boast and Deutchers brag,
Britons hear the call
Back to back the world around
Answer with a will,
England for her own, my boys,
'Tis Rule Britannia still.

The chorus ended the yeomen drew their sabres, an incident which stirred the audience the more, and made them frantic in their cheering. A dramatic scene followed the rendering of the last verse. As the yeomen once more drew their swords a Union Jack was unfurled in the pit. Men waved their hats, women shook their handkerchiefs and shout-

ed themselves hoarse. The scene was wild and exciting. It seemed as though the cheering would never cease, and a considerable time elapsed before the performance could be resumed. When the curtain fell at night the orchestra struck up "God Save the Queen," and again there was an outburst of feeling. We have given the chorus as it was sung, but the original verse was altered by the Lord Chamberlain. In the original "Hands off" "Germany" was written instead of "each of you," and the second line read "Kruger boasts and Kaiser brags," instead of "Boers boast and Deutchers brag."—Naval and Military Record.

Fortune Favors the Brave.

Here is a tale which shews that a British naval captain in full dress is invested with a dignity which no mundane terror can ruffle. During the bombardment of Rio de Janeiro this ideal was splendidly upheld by Capt. Metcalfe Lang, now of H.M.S. Devastation. His story, told before Mr. Justice Matthews, in a commercial case this week, is worth quoting:—"On one occasion when I was on shore I was nearly hit. I had gone to see the Minister of Marine on duty. After I came out I found that the position of my boat had been changed. While I was waiting for her to come up some bullets whistled close by me and struck a plate two or three feet away. The Government troops in the arsenal were lying flat on their stomachs, but I, being in full uniform, with my cocked hat, sword and epaulettes, did not think it would be dignified for a British officer to follow their example—(laughter)—so I stood where I was. The shots in this case came from the rebels." Mr. Bucknel, counsel: "You upheld the honour of England by declining to prostrate yourself before the rebel artillery?" Witness: "I endeavoured to do so." Fortune favours the brave; but the fact that the gallant officer was not hit does not take away from his credit for imperturbability.

Brigade-Surgeon Lieut.-Col. James H. Reynolds, M.B., V.C., one of the heroes of Rookes Drift, has retired from the Imperial service on retired pay.

Colonel E. G. Fenn, having completed his period of service in command of the Regimental District at Halifax, is succeeded by Colonel A. G. Spencer, from command of the West India Depot. Colonel Spencer commanded a battalion of the Essex Regiment, and has been at Jamaica for more than two years. In the West Indian command he is succeeded by Colonel G. W. Vernon, lately commanding a battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment.—Army and Navy Gazette.

The second Chitral Honours *Gazette* was published on Tuesday night. The first batch of rewards—those of Colonel Kelly and his brave band of heroes and the gallant garrison of Chitral Fort—were announced five months ago. The officers whose names were included in Tuesday's *Gazette* are those who accompanied Major General Sir Robert Low with the relieving force from India. To begin with, Sir Robert Low himself is made a G.C.B. and Colonel Bardon Blood, Royal Engineers, a K. C. B. There are seventeen appointments to Companionship of the Bath, and sixteen to the Distinguished Service Order. Three lieutenant-colonels obtain the brevet-colonels, rank and seven captains obtain their brevet-majorities. The list of honours is therefore a fairly long one, but few will say that it is too lengthy, having regard to the credit which the Chitral campaign undoubtedly reflected on British arms in India. It was a military enterprise of the first order, not so much by reason of the actual fighting

—that was insignificant—but on account of the promptitude with which all acted who were interested in effecting the relief of those shut up in Chitral. From first to last the Chitral campaign was admirably planned and executed, and no one will grudge the principal actors any of the rewards which have come to them.—Army and Navy Gazette.

According to "Tid-Bits," the proprietor of a menagerie relates that one of the lions once had a thorn taken out of his paw by a French Lieutenant in Algeria. The lion afterwards ran over the list of officers belonging to the regiment of his benefactor, and out gratitude devoured all of superior grade to the Lieutenant, who thereby found himself promoted to the rank of colonel. If the gentleman owning the animal will apply to the officers of our navy below the "hump" he can obtain his own price for it.

If Congress can do nothing more for the army it should at least increase the artillery, and give to the infantry the three-battalion organization. Aside from the imperative necessity for more artillery troops, the position of our artillery officers was and is discouraging. Promotion is slower in that arm than in any other and how slow that is shown by two letters from artillery officers published on another page. The Cumming bill gives to artillery officers the equivalent of the promotion created by the addition of four regiments to the artillery. The objection made to the bill by artillery officers is because the equivalent of a fifth regiment is to be officered by cavalry officers who, because of their rapid promotion, will rank artillery officers of longer service. This is undoubtedly an unfortunate feature in the bill and should be remedied by adding to the cavalry arm. Congress and the President have united in what is in effect a declaration of war against the nation of all others the most effective for war against the United States: it proposes to invade Turkey, to roil the Spaniards by recognizing the Cuban belligerency, or otherwise giving encouragement to the insurgents. Yet it hesitates about increasing our army, which is much less in number than a single English Army Corps. The situation would be amusing if not humiliating.—Army and Navy Journal, New York.

The next war will probably take place in South America. From information that has reached London, it is evident that Chili and the Argentine Republic will be engaged in a life or death struggle before many months have elapsed, and perhaps Brazil will be also involved in the conflict. What the trouble is about is difficult to understand, but the South American Republics are not over particular about a *casus belli*. Any trifle will serve as a pretext for war, which is not infrequently a substitute for general election. In the present instance some mountainous country seems to be in dispute between Chili and Argentina, and they are preparing to decide the merits of the question by testing their naval and military strength. Brazil seems disposed to stand by Chili, and to join in the fray if she is wanted. It may not have escaped notice that British shipbuilders and the manufacturers of arms have been pretty busy lately in supplying demands of the republics named, and it is asserted that both are preparing for conflict.—Naval and Military Record, Portsmouth.

The latest suggestion in connection with the formation of a "corps of gentlemen" is made by Sir George Baden Pow-

ell, who proposes that a Foreign Service Volunteer Corps, trained as sharpshooters, should be established. Sir George recalls the fact that the "Menthuen's Horse," which took part in the Bechuana-land Campaign, was a regiment of gentlemen. As sharpshooters they commanded the admiration of the Boers, who could be with difficulty be persuaded that they were not Dutchmen, because "they shot too well to be Englishmen."

A new experiment in gunnery practice was carried out off Portsmouth last Friday, when the torpedo-boat destroyer Bruiser was utilized for towing a target at a speed of 15 knots an hour. A gunnery class from the Excellent was put on board another destroyer, and practice was carried on at a high rate of speed. The guns in use were 12-pounders and 6-pounders; and as the destroyer towing the target steamed in the opposite direction from that on board of which the firing was in progress, the mark must have passed the gunners at fully 30 knots an hour. The range was varied between 500 and 1,500 yards, and it is stated that the practice was accurate. Hitherto some difficulty has been experienced in towing targets at a high rate of speed. But if this has been overcome the system is sure to be further developed, and may ultimately come into general use in the navy. It is important that captains of guns should obtain practice at firing at rapidly moving targets, and the present system of carrying out the quartely practice at sea is almost useless because the targets are stationary. In action ships will pass each other at a high rate of speed, and the gunnery officers of the navy are of opinion that it is very desirable to carry out gun practice under realistic conditions.—Naval and Military Record.

Recent visitors to the Presidio speak highly of the new seacoast batteries being erected to guard the entrance to the bay of San Francisco. The sixteen 12-inch mortar battery, and the three-gun pneumatic dynamite battery are practically completed and have given good tests. One of the big 12-inch rifles is in position, and a second about to be mounted, and the 10-inch guns for the disappearing carriages are due from the East. The troops on duty in California have appeared in the new regulation Army cap, and the comments upon its appearance are not at all flattering to the designer.—Army and Navy Journal, New York.

The Smokeless Powder Co., Ltd.

We are informed that Lieut.-Col. J. A. S. Colquhoun, late R.A., has accepted the position of Chairman of The Smokeless Powder Company, Ltd., which has become vacant through the recent decease of Mr. J. D. Dougall. Lieut.-Colonel Colquhoun has had a large experience with war material of all kinds, having served in the Indian Ordnance Department for over twelve years, besides having had charge for a time of the Small Arms Ammunition Factory at Dum Dum. Previous to his retirement from the service in December 1892, Lieut.-Col. Colquhoun was employed as Ordnance Consulting Officer for India, and ex-officio member of the Ordnance Committee, a position which he held for several years.

We also understand that Mr. L. G. Duff Grant, who has been secretary of the company since its formation, has been appointed General Manager and Secretary, and Mr. A. R. Berry as Assistant Secretary.

The Guides at Cabul 1879.

(From Littell's Living Agree.)

"The Commission do not give their opinion hastily, but they believe that the annals of no army and of no regiment can show a brighter record of devoted bravery than has been achieved by this small band of Guides. By their deeds they have conferred undying honor, not only on the regiment to which they belong, but on the whole British army."—Sir Charles Macgregor's Report.

Sons of the Island race, wherever ye dwell,
Who speak of your fathers' battles with lips
that burn,
The deed of an alien legion hear me tell,
And think not shame from the hearts ye tamed
to learn,
When succor shall fail and the tide for a sea-
son turn,
To fight with a joyful courage, a passionate
pride,
To die at the last as the Guides at Cabul died.

For a handful of seventy men in a barrack of
mud,
Foodless, waterless, dwindling one by one,
Answered a thousand yelling for English blood
With stormy volleys that swept them gunner
from gun,
And charge on charge in the glare of the
Afghan sun,
Till the walls were shattered wherein they
crouched at bay,
And dead or dying half of the seventy lay.

Twice they had taken the caanon that wrecked
their hold,
Twice toiled in vain to drag it back;
Thrice they toiled, and alone, wary and bold,
Whirling a hurricane sword to scatter the
rack,
Hamilton, last of the English, covered their
track.
"Never give in!" he cried, and he heard them
shout,
And grappled with death as a man that knows
not doubt.

And the Guides looked down from their smoul-
dering barrack again,
And behold, a banner of truce, and a voice
that spoke;
"Come, for we know that the English all are
slain,
We keep no feud with men of a kindred folk;
Rejoice with us to be free of the conqueror's
yoke."
Silence fell for a moment, then was heard
A sound of laughter and scorn, and an answer-
ing word.

"Is it we or the lords we serve who have earned
this wrong.
That ye call us to flinch from the battle they
bade us fight?
We that live—do ye doubt that our hands are
strong?
They that are fallen—ye know that their blood
was bright!
Think ye the Guides will barter for lust of the
light
The pride of an ancient people in warfare bred,
Honor of comrades living, and faith to the
dead?"

Then the joy that spurs the warrior's heart
To the last thundering gallop and sheer leap
Came on the men of the Guides: they flung
apart
The doors not all their valor could longer
keep;
They dressed their slender line; they breath-
ed deep,
And with never a foot lagging or head bent
To the clash and clamor and dust of death they
went.

HENRY NEWBOLT.

Longman's Magazine.

"We're going!" I heard two lovers say,
They kissed their friends and bade them
bright good-byes:
I hid the deadly hunger in my eyes,
And, lest I might have killed them, turned
away.
Ah, love! we two once gambolled home as they,
Home from the town with such fair merchan-
dise—
Wine and great grapes—the happy lover buys;
A little cosy feast to crown the day.

Yes! we had once a heaven we called a home.
Its empty rooms still haunt me like thine eyes,
When the last sunset softly faded there;
Each day I tread each empty, haunted room.
And now and then a little baby cries,
Or laughs a lonely laughter worse to bear.

R. LE GALLIENNE.

The king has left his counting house and wisely
spent his money;
The queen and he are bicycling, forgetting
bread and honey;
The maid has bought a wheel, too, and left her
hanging clothes;
'Twould take a nimble blackbird now to nip off
half her nose.

Reviews.

The "Army and Navy Illustrated" the first copies of which have just reached us, is the latest addition to the list of Military Weekly periodicals now issued. To describe its object no better words can be used than those of the publisher's prospectus.

"The Navy and Army Illustrated" will be run on business principles, that goes without saying, but it is intended to promote a national and patriotic purpose also; its aim is to assist in popularizing the sea and land services. We shall strive to bring home to everyone in the British Empire, the nature of the factors which go to make up its defensive strength. The importance of teaching the people these matters cannot be gainsaid, for while it is true our statesmen determine the quantities and qualities of our fleets and our armies, it is the people who provide the money for them. To familiarize everyone with the navy and army, we shall reproduce in the highest possible style, photographs of the personnel and material of the naval and military services. The scope of our work will include portraits, pictures of officers and men, ships and weapons, dockyards, arsenals, warships and barracks. And indeed, all places and persons whatsoever associated or connected with the fighting services, will find a space in the "Navy and Army Illustrated."

In the numbers which have been published so far, the publishers have maintained an extraordinary high standard both as to the photographs used and their mechanical reproduction—the large photographs of the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Wolseley, the Duke of Connaught, etc., being well worth framing.

Altogether the "Army and Navy Illustrated" gives promise of being a most interesting addition to the barrack reading room, while the price 8d. post free, is low considering the value given. The publishers are Geo. Newnes, Ltd., Southampton St., Strand, London, Eng-land.

A spirited little "Veterinary Manual" of only 110 pages, by Surgeon-Captain Bruce Seton, Indian Medical Service, has just been published in Messrs. Gale and Polden's Military Series. It is designed for the use of officers attending veterinary classes, and should afford a valuable vade mecum in this respect, for we understand that it is the first elementary manual of the nature that has appeared as yet. The book is divided into twenty-two chapters, dealing with disease of horses and their symptoms, injuries, and wounds; also denoting the treatment to be applied and medicines to be given. The diagnosis of the various ailments is most carefully gone into, so that, provided with this little work, one should be able to trace with ease the origin of lameness or any other defect. The treatment of each case is given in the same section as the disease or injury to which it applies, but the last chapter deals with medicines and remedies generally, and their application to each special form of complaint. Full particulars as to the quantity of medicine to be given are also inserted in this chapter. A comprehensive index is inserted at the beginning. No officer interested in horses should fail to purchase the "Elementary Veterinary Manual."

"The National Review" for January has several articles of great interest to Canadians. In the editor's review of the episodes of the month, President Cleveland's and Mr. Olney's version of Munroeism is very fully discussed and placed in a clearer light than any article we have yet seen. American Politics, by Moreton Frewen; Our Military Problem, by Captain Maxse; and "The Squeeze" by Frederic Greenwood, are all of special interest to military men. Edward Arnold, publisher, 37 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W. C.

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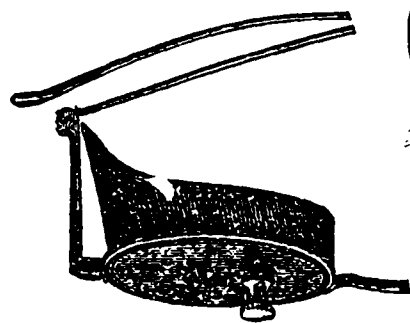
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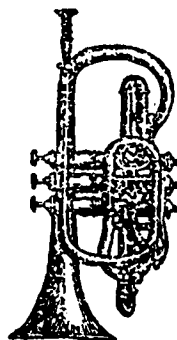
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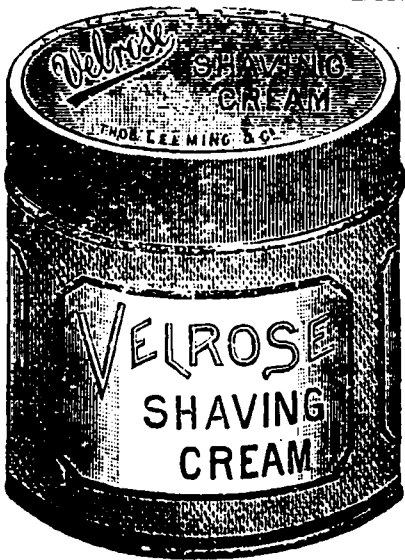
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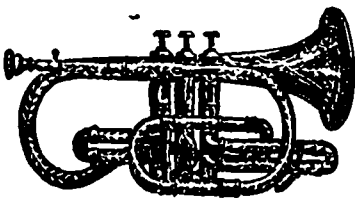
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