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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada.

VOL. VI.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1872.

No. 5.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—Your correspondent "Centurion" is a clever writer on the subjects he undertakes to write, but, nevertheless, I cannot allow that his ideas, or criticisms on other writers, are always correct. As I never will enter personal dispute (so to speak) with any gentleman in the newspapers, military or civilian, still I consider it due to myself to inform "Centurion" that I did not require any "more acquaintance with the artillery service" than he himself does on the fact that the "three branches" of "the service differ only in the manoeuvres, and that the institution at Woolwich educates the officers for each branch alike," and also that "the service is interchangeable." I knew Woolwich and Sandhurst for some years before I entered the Imperial service.

Let "Centurion" calculate the difference in cost between the present Garrison Artillery (as the cost will appear in November next) and one Battalion, of say 500 men, and the Field Battery guns and harness etc., and I think even the 500 men will not be too many. "Centurion" forgets the fact (which I thought I had suggested) that all the subaltern officers in this Battalion might be cadets of the military, as also some doing duty as non-com. officers, making them interchangeable at the option of the commanding officer of the *School* and not of the Battalion.

I say again the present scheme is absurd and I say so now more assuredly, since I have seen how hard it seems to get men to join it. In one month from the time when the A. Battery was first organized only 35 out of the quota had been furnished, and these had been taught their drill by fatigue work at putting in water pipes, knocking out doors for communications between the different passages in the old officers quarters Tete de Pont Barracks and such like fatigues; and half of these men old soldiers, if not all of them. Again some of these men are 21 and 25 year service men, some of

them drawing on for fifty years of age. Will Centurion now appreciate the Garrison gunners or would he not rather prefer my plan with men enlisted for 5 or even 10 years.

We must come to a small standing army and there is no earthly use in shrinking the fact, on throwing away our money on trifles; and I am sure the country will appreciate that man who boldly, as well as properly, points out the fact that in a small force alone, which shall act as a school for others in time of peace, will our money be well and properly spent. Tinkering at a leaking kettle only costs you more in the end than a new one would have done had you bought it and chucked the other away. Give us what I have suggested with not less than six months for infantry or cavalry cadets, nor less than a year for the Artillery, and you have a scheme costing a little more than 75,000 dollars perhaps, but far more effective in the end. Of course I know the Captains would have to work hard in teaching but that would do them good.

Yours sincerely,

ARTILLERIST.

FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The roof of our capacious drill shed fell in on Tuesday night. I cannot say that such a catastrophe was unexpected; ominous cracks and certain signs were manifest some time ago, and you may remember in a former number of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, I went with some detail into the matter, fortelling such a result, the consequences being that I got no end of abuse from the press for my groundless alarm. But the shed has caved in at last, and as there was no snow whatsoever on the roof at the time, the fault must be entirely in the mode and manner of construction. I often wondered why as a matter of precaution after doubts were manifested at the stability of the roof, they did not as a further guard, place supports inside the building in the shape of a few pillars.

Few persons witnessed the occurrence: at the time the band of the Prince of Wales' Rifles were practising in their armory according to custom, when they were disturbed;

first, by the gas going out followed by several loud reports and a shower of stones thrown through the window; supposing they were attacked by a mob they continued to play, but more stones flying in, and a man appearing at a window they got mad, and rushed out into the shed for the purpose of punishing their supposed assailants, when the state of affairs was soon discovered. They were rescued from their dangerous position by some persons outside who broke the rear door of the shed. Fully three-quarters of the whole roof has fallen in; the towers are partially ruined, and various other parts of the walls in such a condition that a greater portion of them will have to be taken down.

The building was never considered a model of strength and solidity; the strength of the roof lay very much in the iron portion that entered into its construction, and may have contracted from frost. The building covered two acres of ground, and to cover such a building with a roof unsupported by pillars seemed running great risk. Again the whole structure was built on a swamp, and had settled down in some places. The building cost \$70,000 and was leased to the Dominion Government for the use of the Volunteers in this city, and as a military training school; the whole loss will consequently fall upon the city. The span of the roof was 125 feet; the girders wood, and herring-boned; upon these were built uprights for the support of the roof timbers proper. It appears that the contractors protested against the style of roof.

The name of Col. d'Odet D'Orsennes, the indefatigable Brigade Major of the 6th Military District, has been prominently before the public of late, in connection with a report that he had been appointed Assistant Adjutant General of his district. His many friends however found that they were somewhat premature in their congratulations, while one has not a word to say against Col. Harwood as a soldier and a gentleman; should he vacate his position, Col. D'Orsennes would make a very efficient successor, and be the right man in the right place. The Colonel has the confidence and esteem of his whole district, is well and generally liked, a strict disciplinarian and every inch a soldier; and an ornament in his profession; and no one would object to see him in the supreme command of his own district; one thing is sure no one could fill it in as capable a manner as he. His appointment would give universal satisfaction.

Weather intensely cold.

B.

TACTICS.

(Continued from page 39)

If the campaign of 1859 had been of longer duration, the inexpediency of eliminating from a regiment of the Line its talent and its muscle, in order to form *corps d'élite*, must have met with practical demonstration. The Zouave regiments were ever in the van, not optionally, but as the price paid for favour enjoyed; the Linesman had enjoyed no such favour. Conspicuous individual merit was rewarded by translation to the higher class. Still, after the battle of Solferino, it is said that the Zouaves gave vent to the following ominous expression: "Nous sommes toujours le bouf." It so happened that days of piping peace arrived, and murmurs gave place to pardonable braggadocio. The system which almost led to disaster was established in full force, for it had one great charm counterbalancing defects—a charm appreciated by men of the *Lebœuf* school—it opened wide the door of patronage. From these remarks it must not be inferred that the French Line regiments are wanting in a noble, warlike spirit, or that they are bad soldiers. The Frenchman is by nature courageous, but his body is the dwelling-place of a most sensitive, volatile mind; if you depress the mind, the body, especially a weak body, does not become a servicable, warlike instrument. The historical fool of the family accepts his position, and is a happy, contented, unprofitable member of society; but he may be no fool, although educated to play the part of one. Similarly, a regiment may be rendered inefficient by depressing influences, and to complete the work of degradation *remete the best officers*. The word *best*, perhaps, ought not to be used; one might rather say, *best bred*, or *best educated*. There must be a firm barrier of social rank between the commander and the commanded to keep up discipline, without which an army is nothing worth. As we know, a great proportion of French officers rise from the ranks. What an officer was, need never be asked; what he is forms an all-important question. Is he a gentleman? is he educated? Now, if the most gentlemanly and the best educated officers are removed, what tone is likely to prevail in the bereaved regiment? Off duty as well as on duty, the barrier between an officer and his men must be impassable, and every grade of rank should be distinctly marked, even in social intercourse.

In the year 1870 we remember the French Minister of War and the Commander-in-Chief (under the Emperor), a fine, good looking soldier of thirty-three years' service, educated at the Artillery School of Metz. Marshal Lebœuf was a polished courtier rather than a soldier; and those who read the pamphlet of lamentations, ascribed to the Emperor, on the disaster of Sedan, will blame the master for putting implicit trust in an untried servant, rather than the incompetent but actual recipient of courtly favour.

It is fair to suppose that Napoleon was rather deceived than a party to deception; but nevertheless, culpable neglect is a crime. Why was the tried and trusty MacMahon in Algeria? The French seem to have combined the functions of Minister of War, Commander-in-Chief, and Chief of the Staff, in one individual. Now, if an honest soldier like MacMahon had held a position similar to Von Moltke in the German army, the nation had not fallen. General Von Moltke is the head of the staff, or the reasoning intellect of the German army. A commander-in-chief uses his staff as a sup-

plementary addition to his powers of vision and thought. (The staff should be the cream of the intellect of an army presided over by its best soldier.)

Colonel Stoffel, French military attaché at Berlin, failed not to call the attention of his Imperial master to the superiority of the Prussian staff system. The staff is selected from the whole German army. The selected even are weeded out, and General Von Moltke is the schoolmaster of the remnant. In Germany, the officer known in England by the term field officer is a staff officer. Col. Stoffel reports that mediocrity is banished from the Moltke school, and uses the forcible expression, "Let us (the French) beware of the Prussian staff. No one will question this assertion, that if a staff does its duty conscientiously, and actually represents the eye of a general, very little can go wrong in an army, provided that the general be the right man in the right place. The staff will soon neglect the duty of lens and retina, however, if the general officer shows an inclination to avoid interference, or if action taken is confined to a routine abnegation of responsibility. Here the writer may be pardoned for recording an example of what may be considered a line of conduct breaking through the confines of routine, but adhering strictly to the necessary bonds of discipline.

An officer commanding a cavalry regiment reports, through the staff, that he possesses eighteen old horses which are quite unfit for any cavalry duty; that they are not even available for recruit drill. The general officer forwards this report, with his own recommendation that the animals be at once sold for the good of the public, the more so as every day they consume money's worth, their market value decreases.

The answer to this letter gives excellent reasons for allowing horses to continue the process known as eating their heads off, in common parlance. Now, the voice of routine calls upon the general to pigeon-hole the correspondence. The voice of duty dictates a vigorous protest. There is no doubt that in cases similar the public service will always gain, and that the administration will feel, if it does not express, its gratitude for a soldier-like habit of transacting business on the principle of calling a spade a spade.

This brings with it a reflection. How can eighteen old horses unfit for service exist in a regiment? The staff seems at fault in this instance. Are there many regiments in the same condition? It is fair to assume that the Prussians manage their affairs with a sounder view to economy. The author can stray no further from his subject. Suffice it to say that the Prussians place far more trust in their general and staff officers than we do. If the destruction of eighteen worn out horses in a large army caused one-tenth the correspondence abroad that it does in England, the world would be a great gainer. Standing armies on the scale of France, Russia, or Prussia, must be impossible for want of money, if not of paper. Therefore, by all means, do not give a general officer of thirty five years' service power to sell a horse without making application on the proper form through the various departments, which lead finally, *via* the Horse Guards, to the War office. It is a question worthy of consideration, however, whether this much of power may not be delegated by the War office to the Commander-in-Chief.

But let us resume our review of the Prussian forces after their short repose. If the years 1867, '68, and '69 were years of rest to the army, the staff reposed little enough, for the Prussian had become the German

army. The Saxons, who had fought well, and the Bavarians, who had fought badly, for independence, all marched under the charge of the Prussian Staff, commanded by the Prussian King. The Bavarians, who, though the least brave, were the best soldiers of the confederation, nicely remarked that, in 1866, with as skilful leading, they would have escaped the yoke of Prussia.

Prussian departmental organization was simply miraculous. The men, whether of the standing army or Landwehr seemed bred expressly for fighting. Their equipment was of the rough and ready nature, understood by the word *servicable*. With trousers tuck'd into Wellington boots; with a pack, looking both clumsy and heavy onward they marched. Discipline was no slender thread in this army; but the respect with which distinction of rank was recognized proved that the superior held his position by right rather than might.

We must be allowed a word on dress, for the German helmet and boot played a more important part in the late war than is generally understood. The cloth garments were inferior to those of their adversary—but the German helmet is a splendid institution. With well burnished spikes to the head-dress, black boots, and clean arms, the Prussian battalion presented a smart, soldier-like appearance, even at the conclusion of a campaign rendered unusually trying by a total absence of tent equipment. Then, again, the helmet was a real protection to the head, and comfortable withal. Landwehr regiments often could compete with Line regiments in "physique," but not in appearance, because they wore a "chaco." This latter head-gear is very inferior to a helmet, though made of leather. The day will, doubtless, arrive when tinsel gewgaws and ornamental deceptions will migrate from the army to their legitimate abiding-place, the stage; not that there is much make-believe in the German army. One's thoughts will wander homewards. Had the British infantry been served out with Wellington boots in place of splatterdashes, loud would have been the howl of malcontents; yet the gaiter is merely a half-measure towards the German boot. It protects the ankle and the trouser, and helps to keep the feet dry, but it performs all these functions in a most imperfect way. Mud which, when dry represents small stones or grit, finds its way into the interior of the stocking in spite of gaiters; and it is fair to assume that the arable land of France would have been sown with gaiters had so feeble a makeshift formed part of the German boot, like everything of leather in that country, is of inferior manufacture; but the soldier in bivouac would have parted with his best friend rather than with his boots. The Prussian need not boast of the remainder of his personal equipment. Two expense pouches of ammunition hang most awkwardly on his waistbelt, which also supports a short sword, of no possible use if it will not cut down a tree; then the bayonet has to remain a fixture at the end of his rifle. There can be no great comfort, either, in having a cloak looped round the body after the manner of a cross-belt. The cloak formed the soldier's only bit of "abri," and was therefore carried without a murmur for a thirty-mile march. What men those were! A battalion actually marched over thirty five miles, thirteen miles without a halt, and five men only "fell out." Could British soldiers perform this feat in marching order? We presume they could, on service, when not surfeited with farnaceous food and alcohol.

The drill of the Prussian infantry is a

most extraordinary mixture of pedantry and sound sense. The slow march is a burlesque on the strut of the crooked champion of the "barndoor" harem; still the left arm is allowed to swing. This swinging of the hand which does not grasp the rifle, strikes the military eye at once, and the impression carried is favourable. The men are not taught to "dress" by the touch of an elbow, they stand on twenty-four inches of front, and common sense points out this freedom of movement as a manifest advantage. Marching a line of men in contact, over rough ground, must be an absurdity. Do individuals keep their unoccupied arm close to their sides, and in contact with that of their neighbour, when enjoying pedestrian exercise? Yet their "dressing" is perfect enough to all intents and purposes when in step. In 1870, whenever the German troops had some spare hours, one observed them at drill, and almost always by companies under their captain or in squads. The company formed up in three ranks; but when for action, they immediately received the order to form two ranks. The author is unable to discover that any radical change took place in battalion drill between the years 1866 and 1870. Battalion commanders followed their own instinct in order to retain control over the four companies of their command. Nothing was laid down on the subject, no new book was published; but in practice they seemed to have carried out the principle of making the fractions more dependent one on the other, giving them cohesion to a limited extent. For instance, Nos. 2 and three companies might be ordered to form the skirmishers Nos. 1 and 4 the "repli" or support. Sometimes a whole battalion skirmished, and a second formed the supports. Again, if a small front had to be covered, No. 1 company might skirmish No. 2 support, with Nos. 3 and 4 in reserve. Thus a captain had not the independence of the officer commanding a company column in 1866; still evidence on this question is very contradictory, for the Germans are as proud of their company column system as ever—which means that companies under their leader are allowed great latitude.

The battles of 1870 were different in nature to those of 1866. The French invariably covered their front with a swarm of skirmishers, who, in face of their training, fired their ammunition away in the most reckless manner, commencing at a range of 1,200 paces or more; then the Chassepot recoils severely, so the men adopted a habit of firing from the hip, with the weapon in a horizontal position, their object being to envelop themselves in smoke and shake the "morale" of the enemy. The Prussians never wasted a shot, and the officers always succeeded in checking fire when they deemed it advisable. This fact speaks volumes in favour of the men and their discipline. Then the Germans placed a limit to the number of their skirmishers. They formed a line of double ranksmen, at about three paces apart. When this line advanced, as it invariably had to do against the French, the men who found cover in their front rushed forward and took advantage of it, the marksman and his comrade firing in turn, one crouched down behind the obstacle to load, whilst the other took aim over it. If, as often happened, a flat piece of ground was in front of one part of the line and cover abounded in another, the exposed skirmishers were not permitted to incline right or left. They had to run up to the alignment of those under cover and lay down firing when opportunity offered from this position. The German system is to rein-

force, but not to recall skirmishers. Private soldiers informed the author that it was very amusing to be a skirmisher, who seldom was hit at long ranges, but "the very devil" to be in column where one projectile might disable a dozen men. Two of these men were in the column of Guards which attacked St. Privat. The losses sustained by the Prussians on that occasion quite bore out their statements.

When the two opponents rivied within point-blank range the improvident Frenchman had expended his ammunition, and the *corp d'élite*, or front line, retired with some precipitation, giving place to the line regiment previously remarked on. The result is historical. Von Moltke once told his staff that the problem how to supply ammunition to the first line during an engagement was one he could not solve. In England, we think it is to be managed by relieving skirmishers. Doubtless, this method is better than giving ground in order to refill pouches in sheltered spots, but the question is how to feed the first line, not the skirmishers of the line only. The Germans decide on never wasting a round of ammunition; so as to prevent, in place of cure, the evil.

The German army seemed to have two principles from which they never departed. Their front attack was always supported by powerful reserves, and they never omitted a flank demonstration or actual assault. They were equally cautious about protecting their own flanks. If one discovered a rifle-pit made by a sentry on outpost, one might be sure another flanked it; if a garden wall was loop-holed, one might be sure that a flanking fire from behind a natural or artificial obstacle would take the assailant in flank. In an advanced guard, or even a main body, entered a town or crossed a bridge, flankers were sent out, even when the presence of an enemy was impossible. There is nothing like learning good habits, and a Landwehr force, even with a good staff, does not pretend to be an experienced army.

After 1866 great attention was paid to the Engineer department, the Artillery, and Cavalry, these arms having been found wanting. Every soldier of the standing Prussian army (not the Bavarian) seemed to have a knowledge of field engineering. Give a bungler a pickaxe and bid him loop hole a wall, and you will find on your return a series of windows as the upper row; and if you have also ordered him to make the more important lower tier of holes, your wall will contain certain gaps—if it has not ceased to merit the name wall. Again in cutting down wood to form an obstacle, a novice will pull the fallen wood about and fail to impede an enemy; a man of experience will fell the timber in such a way that an additional wire or two renders it impossible. How did the Germans learn all this in peace time? We can hardly risk the country to provide woods and walls for the practice of British soldiers in general, but a few out of every line regiment might receive instruction. The use of the spade is appreciated in this country, but we doubt whether many individuals exist out of the Ordnance Corps capable of transforming a ploughed field into a roadway in wet weather. How many soldiers in the British Army ever saw fascines used to repair a road? How many have ever seen a river bridged or a bridge destroyed? The writer thinks that the Royal Engineers on service might receive valuable aid from men instructed in field engineering, and that the Engineers ought to impart a little instruction in their art during peace. The "Pocket Red book,"

and every other aid, is of little value without practical instruction.

(To be continued.)

IRON IN CANADA

The New York *Iron Age* has a letter from a correspondent giving an account of the Hull iron mines, near Ottawa. These mines were purchased some time back by American capitalists the head of the company being Mr. A. H. Baldwin, who has for eighteen years past been extensively engaged in lumbering on the Ottawa river. The present owners commenced operations last spring, and before navigation closed a fair season's work had been done. Some ten thousand tons of fine black magnetic ore were shipped to Cleveland, and mixed with Lake Superior ore, made a good yield of iron. The iron so produced is of the best quality, such as is required for railway car wheels, and some of it has been used with very satisfactory results by the Toronto Car Wheel Company. In connection with all this, the inquiry seems a pertinent one, whether the valuable iron deposits of Canada are never to be of any use but for transportation to the States? The Marmora iron ore goes across the lake to Charlotte, the Hull ore to Cleveland, and ore from various places in Quebec goes to Albany and Troy. Most of the Canadian iron ores are remarkably pure and free of both sulphur and phosphorus, and on that account specially adapted for purposes for which a high degree of tensile strength is required.

There are in Canada deposits of iron, in extent practically inexhaustible, and in quality equal if not superior to the best Swedish. Yet Sweden makes iron while we do not, though it is not the want of coal either, that makes the difference, for Swedish iron is smelted with spruce and pine charcoal, made chiefly from such timber as is good for nothing else. We have the iron ore, and the wood too, in quantities beyond computation, while it is an important fact that just such iron as we might produce is every year more and more wanted, at high prices, for special purposes.

Again, if it "pays" to carry Canadian ore to the States why should it not "pay" also to carry coal to the iron? The plan has been suggested, of having two sets of furnaces, one near the coal, and the other near the iron ore, keeping a fleet of propellers carrying between the two. When will we have such a "national policy" as will keep both raw material and population at home, instead of exporting both to the States, as we are now doing?—*Telegraph*.

We have before us two very minute and interesting accounts of the late expedition from Toronto to Fort Garry. All this ground has been gone over so often that nothing now is supplied. One of our correspondents has made his experience more interesting by giving minute details; and it is in this way that we are enabled to obtain a full and an accurate account of the pleasures and hardships of the trip. Looked at from an impartial stand-point, we think we may point to the passage of the late expedition and challenge the world to exhibit such patriotism and such discipline as carried that force through the difficulties. No regular army could have existed under the strain; and none but Canadians engaged in upholding the honor of the meteor flag would have given such hearty and continued cheerfulness to a task so trying.—*Woodstock Times*.

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 26th January, 1872.

GENERAL ORDERS (2).

ACTIVE MILITIA

No. 1.

Correspondence, Artillery and Engineers.

Correspondence of all Regimental matters relating to Field and Garrison Batteries of Artillery and companies of Engineers (matters affecting clothing or discipline excepted) will in future be forwarded by Officers commanding Military Districts to the Inspection of Artillery and Warlike Stores. This officer will submit such correspondence as may be necessary for the consideration of the Adjutant General, with any remarks as he may think advisable to make thereon.

No. 2.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

*Fiscalens- Squadron of Cavalry.**No. 1 Troop Kingston.*

To be Captain :

Lieutenant Robert White, M. S. V. B. vice Duff, promoted.

To be Lieutenant :

Cornet Archibald Knight, C. S., vice White promoted.

Cavalry in Military District No. 4.

Memo.—The Stormont Troop of Cavalry having been erroneously gazetted in General Orders (39) of 22nd December, 1871, as appearing to have been formed out of No. 5 Company, 59th Battalion,—which company although authorized by General Order, had failed in its organization and is hereby removed from the Active Militia—the following correction of General Order (30) 22nd December, 1871, is published for general information

“The formation of a Troop of Cavalry is hereby authorized at Cornwall, to be known as the “Stormont Troop of Cavalry.” Arms and the necessary equipment will be furnished when the Department of Militia and Defence is in a position to do so.

To be Captain :

Corydon S. Mattice, Esquire M. S.”

The following is the order of precedence of the Captains of Cavalry, as gazetted, in Military District No. 4.

- 1 Captain Henry Sandfield McDonald, 7th December, 1871.
- 2 Captain Corydon J. Mattice, 22nd Dec. 1871.
- 3 Captain James Morrow Walsh, 22nd December, 1871.

Kingston Field Battery of Artillery.

Ensign James Frederick Wilson of No. 4 Company 47th Battalion of Infantry, is hereby transferred therefrom and attached temporarily as a Supernumerary 2nd Lieutenant to the Kingston Field Battery.

Field Battery of Artillery.

Memo.—Mr. C. Seymour, of Port Hope, is authorized to raise a Field Battery of Artillery in the 6th Brigade Division, Military District No. 3, and the Corps will be gazetted so soon as the Service Roll is recommended and forwarded to Head Quarters. Guns and the necessary material will be supplied to the Battery whenever the Department of Militia and Defence is in a position to do so.

“A” Battery and School of Gunnery, Kingston.

The following officers are authorized to join the School of Gunnery at Kingston, on probation, for a three months course of instruction :

Supernumerary 2nd Lieutenant James F. Wilson Kingston Field Battery, from date of joining.

Supernumerary 2nd Lieutenant John D. Smith, Cobourg Battery from date of joining.

Memo.—1st Lieutenant William Nicholl, five non commissioned officers and five gunners belonging to the Wellington Field Battery, are authorized to join the School of Gunnery at Kingston, on 1st February next, for a short course (3 months) of instruction in Artillery Exercises.

Kingston Engineer Company

The formation of a Company of Engineers is hereby authorized at the City of Kingston, to be styled the “Kingston Engineer Company.”

To be Captain :

A. McKenzie, Esquire, M. S.

To be 1st Lieutenant :

A. Ramage, Gentleman, M. S.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally :

J. Breden, Gentleman.

*19th “Lincoln” Battalion of Infantry.**N. 2 Company, St. Catharines.*

To be Ensign, from 1st June, 1871 :

Corporal Robert S. Neas, M. S., vice William Thornton, who is hereby permitted to retire retaining rank.

*28th “Perth” Battalion of Infantry.**No. 5 Company, Blanchard.*

To be Lieutenant :

Sergeant Major William Henry Paisey, V.

B., vice White, promoted.

The resignation of Ensign Henry Anderson is hereby accepted.

*36th “Peel” Battalion of Infantry.**No. 9 Company, Sandhill.*

The services of Captain George Parker as an Officer in the Active Militia, are hereby dispensed with, he having been convicted of assault and sentenced to imprisonment.

*40th “Northumberland” Battalion of Infantry.**Cobourg Battery of Garrison Artillery.*

Gunner John D. Smith is hereby attached to this Battery as a Supernumerary 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally.

43rd “Carleton” Battalion of Infantry

To be Adjutant, from 21st September, 1871 Captain Charles Lett Stephens, V. B., formerly of 14th Battalion, vice Barlow transferred to Montreal Engineer Company.

BREVET.

To be Major :

Capt. William White, V. B., Civil Service Company, from 25th January, 1872.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

*Quebec Provisional Brigade of Garrison Artillery.**No. 1 Battery.*

To be 1st Lieutenant :

2nd Lieutenant William Poston, G. S. & V. B., from No. 3 Battery, vice Reginald L. Sewell, left limits.

1st. Battalion of Rifles “or Prince of Wales Regiment.”

To be Ensign, provisionally :

Robert Tatlow, Gentleman, vice Watt, promoted.

*53rd “Sherbrooke” Battalion of Infantry.**No. 6 Company, Ascott Corner.*

The formation of a company of Infantry is hereby authorized at Ascott Corner; to be No. 6 Company of the 53rd Battalion.

To be Captain provisionally :

Marshall Rolfe, Esquire.

To be Lieutenant, provisionally :

Doland P. Ryther, Gentleman.

To be Ensign provisionally :

Henry H. Winslow, Gentleman.

Wotton Infantry Company.

To be Lieutenant provisionally :

Stanislas Gendron, Gentleman, vice M. T. Stenson, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

To be Ensign provisionally:

Flare Chenells Belisle, Gentlemen, vice Louis Picard, left limits.

BREVET.

To be Lieutenant Colonel:

Major John Martin, V. B., 6th Battalion, from 30th November, 1871.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Leave of absence is hereby granted to Captain George S. Codd, No. 3 Company, 52nd Battalion: for six months from 1st instant, to proceed abroad on private affairs; and to Brevet Major and Captain James F. Turnbull, 2nd Troop, Quebec Squadron, for six months, from 1st instant, to proceed to England with the view of being attached to the Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot, for instruction in the new Cavalry drill.

CERTIFICATES, BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

ERRATUM.—In G. O., (20) No. 4, of 13th September, 1871, under the heading, Province of Quebec, at Laprairie Camp, second Class Certificates, read "Lieutenant, D. D. Denis, No. 4 Company, St. Hyacinthe Provisional Battalion," instead of "D. D. Denis, Gentleman, 64th Battalion.

Memo.—Lieutenant D. D. Denis, is confirmed in his rank from 11th July, 1871.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery.

ERRATUM.—In G. O. (29) 7th December, 1871, read "vice Major James Mount, who is hereby permitted to retire retaining rank" instead of "John Mount."

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

72nd or "Second Annapolis" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 1 Company, Wilmot.

To be Ensign:

Sergeant John Hawkins, M. S., vice Samuel L. Tilley, left limits.

No. 4 Company, Middleton.

To be Lieutenant:

Ensign John Slocum Parker, M. S., vice J. Y. McCormick, left limits.

To be Ensign:

Color Sergeant Guilford Moise, M. S., vice Parker, promoted.

No. 5 Company, Farmington.

To be Ensign:

Sergeant Reubin Roberts, M. S., vice David McGregor, who has failed to attend muster or to provide uniform.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor General.

P. ROBERTSON-ROSS, Colonel, Adjutant-General of Militia, Canada.

LETTER FROM THE QUEEN.

Friday's *London Gazette* contains the following:—

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, has received Her Majesty the Queen's command to make public the following letter:—

"WINDSOR CASTLE, December 26, 1871.

"The Queen is very anxious to express her deep sense of the touching sympathy of the whole nation on the occasion of the alarming illness of her dear son the Prince of Wales. The universal feeling shown by her people during those painful terrible days, and the sympathy evinced by them with herself and her beloved daughter, the Princess of Wales, as well as the general joy at the improvement in the Prince of Wales' state, have made a deep and lasting impression on her heart, which can never be effaced.

"It was, indeed, nothing new to her, for the Queen had met with the same sympathy when, just ten years ago, a similar illness removed from her side the mainstay of her life—the best, wisest, and kindest of husbands.

The Queen wishes to express at the same time, on the part of the Princess of Wales, her feeling of heartfelt gratitude, for she has been as deeply touched as the Queen by the great and universal manifestation of loyalty and sympathy.

"The Queen cannot conclude without expressing her hope that her faithful subjects will continue their prayers to God for the complete recovery of her dear son to health and strength."

DEEPENING OF DOMINION CANALS.

The Rideau Canal is to be improved. The Government have already given directions for the erection of a dam a long distance above Buttermilk Falls, by which the retention of water 6½ feet deep, and twenty-five square miles of surface in dry seasons will be permanently secured, providing that the dam receives proper care, and this of course must be seen to. This dam has already been built under the superintendence of one deeply interested in the trade of the canal.—Having secured this, Mr. George Morton has been the means of establishing a connection through the Rome, Watertown, and Ogdensburgh Railroad, and the entire net work of its connections, by means of which the entire produce of sawed lumber from Ottawa City and intermediate points to Kingston, can be distributed at competing rates with any other route, which will effectually divert this vast trade from all points to Troy, Albany and southward. The only difficulty now in the way is the lack of sufficient canal tonnage to carry this property to Cape Vincent, where the railway will take care of it. A million feet of timber per day during the navigable season will be under the capacity of Ottawa City alone to produce.—*Kingston Whig*.

The *New York Times* thinks that "social demoralization" was in some sense a necessary attendant of political corruption, expresses the hope that reform in the latter respect will be followed by a corresponding improvement in the former. A return to more reasonable hours is suggested: "The practice of dining all night, or at least far into the morning hours, is not only extremely hurtful to health, but destructive of the very pleasure at which it aims. A step in the right direction has been taken by people of established position, and the custom is

gaining ground of noting on cards of invitation the hours when the entertainment is to begin and end, these being in all cases at least three hours earlier than has hitherto been usual. What are called 'afternoon Germans'—a custom imported, we believe, from Washington, beginning at 5 p. m. and lasting until 10—has also become popular."

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY G. W. G.

It is worthy of notice that although our own system of organization and payment of our Militia Force is in every way of a more military tendency than and superior to the capitation allowance plan adopted (as explained in an interesting article in the Vol. UNTEER REVIEW of the 5th instant) in New Zealand, yet that flourishing dependency not only maintains a force which must bear a very large proportion to her population, but, at least as far as money goes, spends a larger sum than we do on the individual effective rifleman. The capitation allowance of £2. 10s. equals \$12.15 (all money is sterling in the British possessions of the Southern Hemisphere) whilst we only pay our gallant fellows \$8.00 for their sixteen days.

The election for West Northumberland to the Legislature of Ontario in the conservative interest, of Brevet Major and Captain Charles Gifford of the 40th Battalion, will be a source of lively satisfaction to his brother officers of that Regiment, and the riding may be congratulated on having secured a representative of the most sterling uprightness and independence of character, and of a standing and capacity suited to the position he has been called upon to fill. Major Gifford is a gentleman of ample means, and is the owner of the well known yacht *Gorilla*.

The appointment of Major Smith, late Adjutant of the 40th Battalion, to the Brigade-Majorship vacant by the lamented death of Col. Patterson, will also afford sincere pleasure not only throughout his own county, where he is so well known as an able and most conscientious officer, but wherever he is known at all in other counties within the District. It would have been impossible to select a better man.—*Communicated*.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday, the 27th inst:—

- BELLEVILLE.—Lieut. Alex. Robertson, \$2.50.
- CASTLETON.—Capt. Wm. Duncan, \$1.00.
- (Per R. Hunter, Esq., St. John, N.B., Agent.)
- ST. JOHN, N.B.—Col. J. V. Thurgar, \$2; Lt.-Col. Foster, \$2; Lt.-Col. C. R. Bay, \$2; Lt.-Col. D. R. Jago, D.A.G., \$2; Capt. A. W. Lovett, \$2. Ens. H. D. Likely, \$2; Capt. W. F. Hatheway, \$2; Maj. R. Farmer, \$1; Lt.-Col. J. H. McShane, \$2.
- WOODSTOCK, N.B.—Lt.-Col. Wm. J. Baird, \$2.
- BATHURST.—Capt. K. F. Burns, \$2.
- PORTLAND, N.B.—Capt. John A. Kane, \$2.
- CHATHAM, N.B.—Sergt.-Maj. Thos. A. Fountain, \$2; Major A. D. Shireff, \$2.
- SACKVILLE, N.B.—Hon. Col. Botsford, \$2.
- NEWCASTLE.—Capt. R. R. Call, \$2.
- JACKSONVILLE, N.B.—Capt. H. Emery, \$2.
- INDIAN W. N. B.—Lieut. Jas. R. Brown, \$2.
- MILLTOWN, ST. STEPHEN, N.B.—Charles Blacfin, Esq., \$2; Major A. McAdam, \$2.
- ST. STEPHEN, N.B.—Capt. John H. Rose, \$2.
- HALIFAX, N.S.—Ensign J. M. Mumford, \$2.
- RIVER HERBERT, N.S.—Lieut. Wm. Moffat, \$2.

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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1872.

As a general rule for field works the parade or space inclosed should not be excavated in order to keep it dry, but occasions may occur when it would be necessary to excavate a shallow trench in rear of the Banquette, and in such case advantage should be taken of a natural or artificial slope to keep it free from water, as nothing annoys troops or renders them so uncomfortable as being obliged to await attack in mud or water without the power of moving, and it should be a special object with the military engineer to drain his works as thoroughly as possible.

The profile of any work will depend in a great measure on the following conditions: The force to be resisted, the time and means at hand for constructing and manning the work. The nature of the soil. The time the work is to be occupied.

The command of the parapet is attained; when it stands above all eminences within range, when its superior slope forms one straight line with the slope of the glacis so that the site of the ditch is not visible to the enemy. When sufficient excavations can be obtained from the ditch to raise the glacis at least six feet above the natural surface, leaving a space twelve feet wide between it and the edge of the counterscap

as a covert way which should be defended by the rifle.

The interior crest of the parapet should be at least six feet six inches over the terreplein and it must be received as an uncontrovertible axiom that a *strong profile is essentially necessary to vigorous defence*, a height of six feet will allow a respectable defence, and owing to the difficulty of throwing up a work with the pick and shovel the greatest height has been fixed at twelve feet.

The interior slope should receive a base equal to *one-third of its height*.

The tread of the Banquette should be four feet three inches below the interior crest of the parapet. Its width two feet for a defence of one, four feet for a defence of two ranks; the slope of the banquette should be twice its altitude.

The berm is a defect in field works because it yields the assailants a footing, it is necessary in the construction, because it prevents the escarpe being crushed out by the pressure of the parapet. In firm soils the berm may be only two feet wide, in other cases six feet. It is usual to fraise the berm, in other words to lay a fringe of strong brushwood or palisading pointed, extending far enough into the ditch to be over the foot of the slope of the escarp, in either mode a tail piece is laid five feet under the parapet and the brushwood or palisades nailed thereto and placed so closely together that nothing can pass through.

The rules of the dimensions of the ditch are—its depth should not be less than six feet nor its width less than twelve feet to present a respectable obstacle. It cannot with prudence be made deeper than twelve feet.

The calculations for determining the size of the ditch are based on the fact that a cubic yard of earth work will be constructed from eighteen cubic feet of excavation, so that the dimensions of the ditch will be only two-thirds that of the parapet. It must also be observed that more earth will be furnished at the salients than will be required by the parapet and less at the re-enterings.

The manner of tracing out the profile and plan of a field work is as follows. Poles are planted at the angles of the work having the height of the interior crest marked on them, a line is *lockspited* (a small continuous furrow turned over) showing the line of the interior crest between each pole, if the surface is level, distances perpendicular to this line are set off at intervals marking the site of the exterior crest, and the bases of slope are set off from those lines. But when the ground is undulating, a stout line is stretched above the surface in a horizontal position covering the site of the profile all the points of which can be determined on it by a plummet, stakes or poles being driven at the foot of the exterior slope of the parapet, at the exterior crest, the interior crest, the interior slope banquette tread, &c.; and having the true heights thereon being connected by slips of pine or pieces of cord,

give the true slope of the profile of the work.

The distribution of working parties may be as follows: in ordinary soils a man with a pick can furnish employment to two men with shovels, the men should be from four to six feet apart, a man can pitch a shovel full of earth twelve feet horizontally or six feet vertically.

The working party is so arranged that on twelve feet of counterscarp, and nine feet of interior crest, a pick with two shovels in the ditch, two shovels on the berm near the scarp, one man to spread and one man to ram the earth, those divisions should be marked by pickets, numbered one, two, three, &c.

The ditch is excavated in benches three feet deep, the earth is thrown forward and evenly spread, and rammed in layers of twelve inches, when the bottom has been reached the benches are cut away and the proper slope given to the counterscarp and escarp.

Six cubic yards per man per day when the earth is not thrown higher than six feet is a fair day's work, but if benching is resorted to from four to five yards will be all that can be accomplished.

The system of segmental bastions recommended in the second article on Fortifications, appears to be the best devised for field works in Canada, it embodies all the advantages of the line with the intervals advocated by General Rogniat, and requires much less skill to lay out and construct. There are only two general conditions necessary as general principles. The first is that the site of the works should command everything within effective range, the second that they should not be outflanked, the command of parapet must conform to rules governing the other systems, and palisading as well as abbatis should be freely used, accurate as well as exhaustive surveys of the site should be obtained, and nothing can excuse the engineer officer's neglect of distance or elevation, the simplest process of plane trigonometry will enable him to have every prominent elevation or object within effective rifle or cannon range accurately fixed on his plan with the true distance to a foot.

The elevations can only be obtained by levelling over them or approximately by aneroid barometer.

From the foregoing it is evident that topographical surveying enters largely into the duties a military engineer will be called on to perform, upon the accuracy with which the operations are conducted depends upon the value of the works and the possibility of their successful defence.

Their construction is after all a mere mechanical matter, only requiring care and skill, but in the determination of site, matured judgment, accuracy of operations with scientific skill receive their fullest developments.

The great army reformer Cardwell, has been lecturing before the ancient Druids at Oxford lately, and, of course, defended his policy by a labored speech, the most prominent portion of which was the boast that "any well educated boy may now present himself at a competitive examination and hope to receive the commission of his sovereign.

Sprinkled at convenient intervals throughout the speech were notices of Agincourt, Cressy, Poitiers, and other famous fields of England's glory.

It was, however, passing strange to find that no Englishman seemed to remember that those fields were won by officers who did not obtain their commission by competitive examination, but by the English aristocracy at the head of their retainers.

We look on the idea of providing leaders for an army by a system of scholastic training as the greatest folly ever attempted, and it is conclusive evidence that the control of the military force of a country should never be placed at the mercy of a faction therein.

Military science is not speculative or metaphysical, it is practical and inductive, and how a competitive examination is to qualify any "well educated boy" to become a military leader is a mystery known only to men of such great diversified and comprehensive powers as Cardwell, for in addition to the knowledge the future admirable Crichtons of the British army must possess, it will be necessary by some other mysterious process as yet undiscovered to endow them with the qualities which will make them respected and trusted by the men they would command.

As the Whig radicals have failed in procuring recruits for either the army or navy they should be called to show where the men those youthful pedagogues are to command are to be found. It is not at all likely they will volunteer for service under heedless schoolmasters, nor is it likely that the process of cramming which the competitive examination demands will develop qualities of courage and endurance so necessary to make a good officer.

It is evident that Cardwell has borrowed his ideas of competitive examination from the refined philosophers of the celestial empire, every office of which is open to the ambition of any "well educated boy" and the following is the result:—

"I remember seeing in Canton a military examination. A deep trench was dug in a circle, and two targets were placed at equal distances from the centre. The competitor mounted a very slow pony, who trotted round the trench; the rider then approached the target, and when close put the arrow against it, pulled the bow, and of course each time placed the arrow successfully in the target. Three times did he perform this wondrous feat, and then, kneeling at the governor's feet, was dubbed an officer. It was so ridiculous I could hardly believe it to be true. A number of English schoolboys transported to the spot would

have died of laughter."—*A Land Journey from Asia to Europe.*

We have succeeded in bringing out the military spirit of our people by the simple art of making our army a purely voluntary force, the officer must raise the contingent of his rank and be qualified to command it, the man who will not go to the trouble is not fit to fill the position, and it is not so valuable as to be a prize ensuring a livelihood to the successful competitor.

It will be utterly impossible to get soldiers to follow officers whose only claim to their respect is that they have won a commission as a prize. The old aristocratic system with all its abuses gave the rank and file officers they would follow, and it is not too much to assert that ever since the ranks of the army have been thrown open to indiscriminate promotion, the class of men required by the service have refused to enter it, and this evil will assuredly increase. If the English people are wise the Volunteer System should be the basis for their regular army, and the schoolmasters should be allowed to follow their proper vocations.

The Whig radicals will be likely to have their theories of National benevolence, universal philanthropy and peace-at-any-price severely tested by their dearly beloved cousins the Yankees, the Treaty of Washington was held up as the *chef d'œuvre* of enlightened statesmanship, the outcome of Christian philanthropy and the dawn of a new era of political intercourse; well the Whigs have got an arbitration and the following is likely to come of it.

"According to the *Morning Post*, our prospects with regard to the results of the American Arbitration Commission are anything but cheering. It is supposed that the United States Government intend to insist upon holding us liable not only for the alleged prolongation of the war caused thereby—a prolongation estimated as at least two years. As the war cost two hundred millions sterling per annum, our cotemporary calculates that if the Americans should succeed in persuading a majority of the Commissioners of the justice of their claims, we may look forward to having to pay an indemnity of some five hundred millions."

We shall find out whether even John Bright will consent to pay such a price for Yankee friendship, the prospect is not cheering for the Manchester school as it will very nearly double the National debt of Great Britain, we must confess that a feeling of thorough contempt for the insensate folly that makes such a result possible is the only one we possess. Our conviction, however, is that if the faction that now governs England will consent to accept the issue they will be scouted by the people. There is, however, the fact to be taken into consideration, that with the aid of those very same people they have left Great Britain without an army, and thoroughly disorganized her navy, besides, by their foreign policy of placing her in such a position that a con-

test would be her ruin. A political mistake is a crime and judged by that standard Gladstone's administration have committed a serious of crimes against the Empire of the most atrocious character.

The prospect for the Manchester school is not pleasant and may lead to painful results, if the people did not suffer the cotton spinners would excite no pity.

From the time of the greatest king that ever filled the British Throne, William III., to the close of the life of the late Lord Palmerston, a period of one hundred and seventy years, English statesmen made the "balance of power in Europe," the first consideration in the foreign policy of the Empire. The pages of Macaulay's history of England are replete with instances of the ignorance of English statesmen of that era what foreign policy meant, the great danger to the National existence incurred by that ignorance, the fortunate circumstances by which a deliverance therefrom was effected, and the cost in blood and treasure by which England's place among the comity of nations was assured. Since the death of the statesman and soldier king, the shores of Britain have not been profaned by the foot of the invader; and up to the advent of the Schoolmaster-Premier Gladstone and party, it was a matter of necessity that the opinion of England should be had on any Continental imbroglio, and it was a matter of anxiety to ascertain on which side she would range herself in the event of an appeal to arms. The peace at any price party have effectually changed all this. Palmerston is hardly passed away before the very states that dreaded and hated him, but like well trained hounds slunk down at his word, plot the future of continental Europe without having consulted the wealthiest and most powerful nation in it, whose very name he made them tremble at. In another page will be found an article from the *Northern Zeitung* entitled Germany and her neighbours, in which the existence of England is not recognized, and it certainly must be a pleasing reflection to the *Rhetorician* and his Whig radicals to find how effectually they have undone the labours of one hundred and seventy years, and put Great Britain out of the pale of the great powers.

We have repeatedly asserted that the honour of England had been prostrated in the dust by the Whig radicals and that since her destinies were confided to the Manchester school of politicians her downward course in national degradation begun, that those pitiful pedlars would sell every thing belonging to the glorious traditions and history of the past is beyond doubt, but that they would barter the heirlooms of the nation, what belongs to the future, remained in doubt; however, the last year has seen strange developments but nothing stranger than the following from the *Broad Arrow* of 6th January.

"A Naval Officer has informed our contemporary the *Standard* that the walls of Portsmouth were placarded last week with a notice that Nelson's old flagship the *Victory* was about to be sold. Another correspondent of the same paper has since contradicted the statement. We have reason to believe, however, that the "Naval Officer" was correct, and that the fate of the *Victory* has been for some time in suspense. If our information is correct, the idea of the Admiralty is to retain some memorial of the old ship, but they are at a loss to know how to dispose of the whole. We wonder if the enterprising American who offered to purchase the Vendome Column of the late com-mune of Paris could be got to look at this bargain—if Nelson's coat and sword and a few of the old flags from Chelsea Hospital and St. Paul's were thrown in! What is the use of our national relics if they have no market value? and if they are worth anything, why should we not proceed to realize? By all means take advantage of the opportunity when the *Victory* is sold to turn some of the old properties into cash, have a clearing sale at the Tower itself, and when the *Victory* sails for her new moorings let the bones of Nelson himself go with her."

On the 21st October, 1805, Nelson fell on the deck of the *Victory* at Trafalgar in the arms of victory, in the discharge of duty, and by his death saved the National existence of Great Britain a worse disaster than that which has befallen France, and let it be forever remembered that he had Whig traitors to contend with. Their worthy successors only carrying out the policy which, before now, placed their country under the feet of the nations.

They are the worthy successors of the scoundrels that sold their king, and not disciples of their great prototype that sold his Lord and Master for thirty pieces of silver

Let them consummate the disgrace of the country that keeps such fellows in power and places a German Jew pedlar in a position to insult the memory of England's greatest seamen and purest patriot, all their efforts cannot wipe out the glorious story from the pages of history, nor the memory of the Immortal Nelson from the hearts of those seamen who can remember that Eng-land once had a Navy.

By all means send the hero's bones from a land cursed with judicial blindness, from a race of degenerate selfish pedlars who neither knew nor care for the National honour for which he fought and died, and let Ichabod be written after the proud name of England "whose home is no longer on the mountain wave," whose sons have degenerated into Gibeonites for the service of Mammon, glorying in their degradation and feeling pride in their slavery.

During the recent Session of the Dominion Board of Trade, held in Ottawa, the Board of Trade of this city presented three papers which were accepted as the basis of a National Commercial Policy; they were, "The Canal Policy of the Dominion of Canada," "The North Shore Railway," and "Emigration," the resolutions by which

they were adopted laid it down as a funda-mental principle that the development of our internal resources and the colonization of the country were the objects towards which all our energies were to be directed, and that our foreign relations were secondary mat-ters. The necessary connection of the sub-jects treated of arises from the proposition laid down in the paper on the North Rail-way, that works of such a description tended to develop new sources of industry, and, as a consequence, induced a flow of popula-tion towards those points at which suc-centres of profitable employment existed. The paper on "Emigration" proved that the United States owed its influx of foreign population to the fact that the land bonus to railways made all its enterprises, public works, and, therefore, it would be a matter of necessity on the part of the Canadian people to inaugurate a system of public works, and that such should be a matter of State Policy. We do not advocate a system of grants of Public lands to railway companies but we feel that the Government should un-der take the great works on our canals and Pacific Railway in the interest of the country.

It is hardly possible that our increase from immigration reached 20,000 souls during the year 1871, while the following statement shows what the United States has done in that particular.

The number of persons coming yearly into the neighbouring Republic is, as every-one knows, very large. During 1871 it reached the large amount of 228,962 at New York alone, and it is curious to note the various nationalities of those who thus sought a home in the Western world. Ac-cording to the most accurate return the record stands as follows:—

Country of Birth.	Country of Birth.
England.....36,316	Norway..... 3,743
Ireland.....62,600	Denmark ... 3,053
Scotland.... 9,147	France..... 2,574
Wales..... 4,836	Switzerland... 4,064
German and Aus- trian Empire 77,995	Italy 2,739
Sweden.....12,799	Miscellaneous 9,095
Total in 1871.....	228,962
Total in 1870.....	213,554

Comments are needless, but a change of system or rather the adoption thereof is imperatively necessary.

The orators, politicians, and people of the United States are never tired of lauding the beauty and value of their institutions; advo-cates of the blessings of Republican rule point exultingly to the success of that especial favor of Government on this con-tinent, and English demagogues think the *ne plus ultra* of Constitutional perfection will be reached when universal suffrages, the ballot, and absolute sovereignty of the people shall have been attained.

When the people are all sovereigns there is nobody to obey, and this axiom is beauti-fully illustrated by what is now taking place in New Orleans, the capital of the State of Louisiana.

The Legislative body of that State con-

sists of a Senate and House of Representa-tives, both elected by the people, in both houses there is an overwhelming majority of Republicans, and a very small number of Democrats, as the two political fanatics in the United States, rather strangely call them-selves. The Republicans are divided, the larger section being led by Warmouth the Governor of the State who has been elected to his office by the people.

The smaller section of the Republicans and the Democrats are led by Carter, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

So very bitter is the animosity existing between those factions that very little sufficed to bring them to blows, the cause of hostilities, appears to have been umbrage taken at the conduct of the Governor War-mouth in appointing one Finchbeck, one of the class known as *Yaller Niggers* to the vacant post of Lieutenant Governor. In order to ratify the appointment an extra session of the Senate had to be called, and it is at this course the Carter party are offended; the framers of the Constitution of the United States and all the subordinate States having forgotten the keystone of Constitutional Government, a responsible Ministry; the meeting of the regular session of the Legis-lature was the signal for action on the part of the Carter party, they at once denounced all the proceedings as illegal and fraudulent and commenced the necessary proceedings to impeach the Governor.

On the 3rd inst., while those proceedings were debating in the House of Representa-tives amid much excitement, a member whose seat was being contested proposed that the Speaker should vacate the chair. A rush was made by the "ayes" to eject him there from, but they were met by a strong body of men who had been held in reserve and en-tered the Chamber by the Speaker's private door. After considerable fighting Carter kept possession of the Chair.

Next day the Governor ordered out 200 Metropolitan Guards, to protect his friends from the Speaker's armed bands, the latter applied to General Emory, the officer in command of United States troops for assis-tance to keep the peace and got 200 coloured soldiers and two Gatling guns.

Upon affidavits duly made warrants were issued against the Governor, four of the State Senators, fourteen members of the House, the Sheriff, chief of police, and two police captains, on a charge of conspiracy to hinder the execution of the laws.

The Governor and nine others were actu-ally arrested and brought before a United Commission, but were discharged on bail.

In the House five of the Governor's faction whose seats were contested were summarily unseated and the contestants placed in the vacant seats.

An attempt to break up the quorum by the Governor's faction leaving the Cham-ber in a body failed, while Carter's party in the Senate had been for some days cruising up and down the river in a United States

Revenue cutter out of the reach of Black rods, and the sergeant at arms could not get a quorum in the Senate.

The House of Representatives adjourned on the 4th to meet at noon on the 5th, the Governor called his adherents together for an extra session on that day at 10 a.m., under their guards the house deposed the speaker and elected one Brewster in his place.

Carter the ousted speaker after vainly protesting against this assembled his friends at the Gem Saloon, Royal Street, and resumed the functions of the House of Representatives of the State.

The people of Louisiana are thus provided with the spectacle of two lower Houses and a Senate pretending to be in session without a legal quorum, the Governor's party sit in the State House surrounded by guards and batteries, and have been openly buying over their opponents, the prices varying from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per head.

The Carter faction are in session at the Gem Saloon, are carrying on this affair by kidnapping their opponents, frequent feuds occur between the parties in one of which a member of the House of Representatives named Wheyland, was killed. The President of the United States has ordered the officer in command at New Orleans to put down rioting by force.

A similar row is going on in the New Mexico Territorial Legislature, and the study of the phenomena in political science is recommended to the British admirers of Yankee institutions. The sovereignty of the people is a great institution, when all are kings none need obey; the ballot box is beautiful apart from the fact that the voter is bribed, the Representatives can command from \$5,000 to \$10,000 each for their votes, thus purity of election, the interests of the public, but above all, that of the individual is served and promoted, and if a fellow buys a constituency he can sell it again.

This state of affairs would suit the English Whig radicals and their masters the Manchester pedlars exactly, as it reduces everything to a standard value.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The health of the Prince of Wales is improving, the 21st inst was observed as a day of thanksgiving for his recovery throughout Great Britain, at all theatres the people displayed their feelings by singing the National Anthem and God save the Prince of Wales.

John Stuart Mills has refused to act as Chairman at meetings where Sir Chas. Dilke would address the people. It was feared that if the friends of the latter attempted to carry out any demonstration it would lead to serious trouble, as the mass of the people, especially the working men, will not tolerate Republican demagogues, and will put down any attempt at meetings by force. Sir

Samuel Baker, whose probable loss was reported, is now known to be in good health, at Khartoum. Dr. Livingston is reported to be alive at Ujji.

A severe snow storm occurred in London on the 24th and extended over Great Britain, serious disasters occurred to shipping and property.

The French Government propose to cede a monopoly for the sale of tobacco for a period of thirty years to the Rothschilds and other bankers, provided that they advance sufficient money to pay off the Prussian indemnity.

A formal demand has been made on the Austrian Government for the extradition of Degichio, who was Gambetter's private Secretary during the German war, but who afterwards joined the Commune.

Efforts are being made to bring about a fusion of the members of the House of Orleans.

Efforts are being made by the Spanish Government for the suppression of the "International Society." Reinforcements are constantly sent forward to Cuba.

Great activity prevails in the dockyards and arsenals of the United States. The New Orleans Imbroglia still continues, and except the proceedings are repressed by force of National Troops bloodshed will assuredly follow.

It is stated that the political tendencies are towards close alliance with Great Britain and a separation of interests from those of Russia, the latter power appears to have suffered from the ill advised acts of its minister, (Baron Catacary) and especially from his ill-considered attempt to prevent the ratification of the Washington Treaty.

If the political friendships could be depended on, and if the efforts of the public men of the States were directed to the development of the interests of their own country the British alliance would be the first true effort towards that desirable consummation.

Mexico still continues in a state of turmoil, it is reported as the desire of the United States to annex that country. If such a course is attempted it will take 100,000 soldiers, and at least 10,000 miles of railway to civilize the Greasers. What with the Spanish Mexican and Russian affairs on hands, Washington politicians have an uneasy time of it.

In Her Majesty's dominion of Canada affairs progress with the usual steady pace; on every side signs of unexampled prosperity to be seen; the recent meetings of the Dominion Board of Trade disclosed a state of material prosperity since the abrogation of Reciprocity which few were prepared for, and effectually settles the question as to what our commercial relations are to be.

Advices from Lake Superior speak of wonderful yields of silver and plentiful gold indications in Manitoba and British Columbia, tranquility and prosperity obtain.

The most notable event during the week has been the fall of the roof of the drill shed at Montreal, and consequent damage of about \$20,000, a fatality attends these structures, they all appear to have been badly designed.

REVIEWS.

We have received a prospectus of a new journal about to be issued under the title *Westward Ho* devoted to the interests of Immigration. Judging from the style of the document, and the well known ability of the editor, we believe the new addition to our newspaper literature, will be both valuable and useful.

It recommends itself in a special degree to our agricultural population who are interested in this question of cheap labor, because it will be the means of inducing a supply of that necessary article into this country by placing before the English intending emigrant authorized and *semi official* information of the advantages to be found in choosing Canada as a home. *Westward Ho* (as we understand the matter) will be non political, in perfect accord with the Ministry of the day, and will thus be enabled to shape a course best calculated to advance the interests of Canada in the direction indicated. We wish the adventure every success, as a project it is well deserving the support of a people desirous of supplying their most pressing needs and increasing their profits at the same time. *Westward Ho* will be published weekly at Ottawa, by Mr. James Norris.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the *Trade Review*, printed at Winnipeg for Alex. Begg and devoted to the commercial interests of the North West. We admire the energy of the spirited proprietor who has already distinguished himself in literature by a very impartial history of the Red River troubles under the title of "the Creation of Manitoba." and we know he will be able to make his enterprise a success. In the present number he has touched on one theme which affects the interests of the whole Dominion, that of the cost of transport to Fort Garry, to which we mean to draw attention as an evil to be remedied.

The *Phrenological Journal* for February has been received. It contains a large amount of interesting and instructive reading of a scientific nature.

LIKE the fabled phoenix, Chicago has arisen from her ashes with invigorated powers, and as an evidence thereof, Waters, Eberts, & Co., Chicago, have issued an illustrated weekly paper, entitled *Our Fireside Friend*. It appears to be a remarkably well got up journal, the articles are good and it is published for the small sum of \$3 yearly, at 783, State Street, Chicago.

The *Scientific American* has been received, it is a remarkably good number of this valuable work.

"A SLAP IN THE FACE."

(Montreal News.)

THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

More strength to the sinews and power to the arm
That wiped out one stain in our country's disgrace!
And gave Annexation, the symbol of harm,
A vigorous right handed "slap in the face!"
In the veins of the conclave of Canada's sons
Who met to discuss the affairs of the State,
The true British life blood of loyal runs!
Long, long may it course there and govern our fate.

This noble Dominion can flourish and grow
In power and commerce beneath our own vine,
Without the unwelcome exotics that blow
Their poison across the "American" line
Accuse be the hand that would lower the flag—
The emblem of Freedom that shelters our race,
To make way for a rotten Republican rag
To flutter in mockery in its loved place.

When the demagogue wrapt up in selfishness, tries
To preach disaffection and loosen the bond
Which unites us to Britain with strongest of ties,
The love of our country confiding and fond!
May Canada's spirit arise in its might
Whate'er the occasion, wherever the place,
And put the foul bird of ill-omen to flight
By a vigorous back-handed "slap in the face!"

Let the sinner be hoary who'd make us forget
The land that we sprang from, "great, glorious
and free!"
Or young in the ambush that treason has set
To cut us adrift from the Queen of the sea,
When he raises his weapon with treacherous
sleight
To part the connexion—the pride of our race!
May a patriot arm be ready for fight
To give him a back-handed "slap in the face!"

WILLIAM PITTMAN LETT.

Ottawa, January 20th, 1872.—[Ottawa Citizen.

THE SWISS MILITARY SYSTEM.

(Continued from page 48.)

The arms and other equipment range from nearly 4*l.* for the infantry man to 14*l.* 10*s.* for the cavalrist. For the rifle of the infantry soldier 3*l.* 7*s.* is estimated, and for that of the sharpshooters as much as 5*l.* which proves that, in this respect at least, the Swiss system does not deal stingily with its Militia.

The cost of instruction is estimated at about 2*l.* 12*s.* for the infantry man, 5*l.* 15*s.* for the sharpshooter, 6*l.* 15*s.* for the Engineer Corps and branches, 13*l.* 10*s.* for the artillery, and rather upwards of 30*l.* for the cavalry per man and horses.

The Swiss Militiamen thus represents individually a money outlay under the several heads of clothing, arm, and equipment, and of instruction, from first to last as follows, according to the arm to which he is assigned: Infantry about 11*l.*, sharpshooters and engineers about 17*l.*, artillery between 36*l.*, and 45*l.*, cavalry 54*l.*

Of this amount, in some of the cantons, each man upon entering on duty as recruit, has to bear a part which ranges from 1*l.* 13*s.* for the infantry soldier to nearly 4*l.* for the cavalrist. This does not, however, represent the expense to which the man is put while on drill and practice. The Swiss loves to eat five times a day, and to drink in proportion, and these occasions are made the most of for a little extra indulgence beyond the frugal habits of every day life. The poorest brings some money with him, and if his own pocket does not suffice, his wealthier comrades see to it that he fares none the worse.

Colonel Herzog, who recently commanded the corps of observation on the French frontier, to which Bourbaki surrendered, expressed some years ago to Mr. Martini his grave doubts whether the Swiss system was quite so cheap as it appeared from the cantonal and federal budgets. *Per contra*, Mr. Stampfli proves triumphantly that Belgium, which most closely resembles Switzerland in many

respects, spends annually upwards of 2,000,000*l.* in its war budget, while the Swiss system gives an organized effective force of double the number for less than 400,000*l.*

At the risk of becoming wearisome by repetition, I wish once more to direct attention to the cardinal principle of the Swiss organization. The central or federal authority assumes the supreme direction of military affairs; it fixes by law the organization and formation, the dress, equipment, arming, and a minimum of drill. It takes upon itself, and at its own expense, the higher military instruction, and also that of special arms. But—and this is a more important "but"—everything else is left to the twenty-five Cantonal Governments. These clothe, equip, and arm the men in accordance with the federal laws; these supply the war material and all necessary stores as well as the horses. As regards the infantry, that is to say the vast body of the troops the Cantonal Governments have hitherto been omnipotent in officering, drilling, and managing it.

Thus far I have illustrated this peculiar function of the Cantonal Government rather by the irregularities which it inevitably imports into what is conventionally called the Swiss system. I wish now to express my firm conviction that the chief merit of the system resides precisely in this seeming effect. It is the extreme localization which makes the Swiss Militia effective, and I am persuaded that any imitation, even partial, in which this localization is lost sight of, will ignominiously break down in the first experimental attempt.

Each canton has its military administration complete within itself; each its own arsenals, store houses, parade-grounds, shoot-ranges &c. Each furnishes what it can best give—the forest cantons sharpshooters and mountain howitzer batteries, the large frontier towns, like Basle, Geneva, or Zurich, artillery in position, and in each case that which for defensive warfare is first required is already and normally in the place where it is wanted. Nor is the great disparity in size and population which prevails among the cantons—one having less than 6,000 males, and another nearly a quarter of a million—a serious difficulty. It rather tends to direct undivided attention in each canton to the perfection of that special arm which the pursuits and habits of its inhabitants best qualify it to supply to the federal forces.

Thus, if you wish to apply the Swiss system, with any prospect of success in this country, say the Volunteers, or Yeomanry, or Militia, you would have to provide not only distinct but appropriate organizations in every country, and even parts of counties. The seaboard would by preference have to furnish Coast-guard men, or some sort of naval Volunteers; agricultural districts, heavy cavalry and infantry; the great cities artillery; the Highlands, sharpshooters; the "Black Country," a Volunteer Engineer Corps.

Moreover, under the Swiss system, each man of the first and second ban takes his personal equipment and accoutrement home with him. It is only on passing into the landwehr that he surrenders back to the State his rifle and military belongings. Every homestead is thus constituted a sort of miniature depot of part of the common stock of war material available for the national defence. Of course strict prohibition exists against the man making use of any part of his military outfit otherwise than when on duty.

I think I need say no more to show the extreme difficulty of a wholesale application

of the Swiss system in other States. That it contains excellent principles, which are universally applicable no one can gainsay, but their practicable value will depend upon the judiciousness and discrimination with which they are adapted to altered circumstances. I think, for instance, that the Prussians have known how to use some of the best features of the Swiss system, and yet used them for purposes diametrically opposed to the Swiss—for the purposes of a highly centralized, intensely military, and from the necessities of its position, an aggressive State.

Even in Prussia, as the present audience well knows, the theory of universal liability to military duty is never practically enforced except in cases of extreme national necessity.

On the other hand, there is a striking instance which I believe is not generally known in this country, of a militia system, in theory identical with the Swiss, utterly breaking down. I refer to the United States of America. Most, if not all, the States of the American Union still retain upon their statute-books enactments to compel every able-bodied white male to present himself at stated times and places to be duly mustered, drilled, regimented, and brigaded according to the laws made and provided for the organization and instruction of an efficient militia. The only result—and to this there are literally no exceptions—in all the States was that imposing array of citizen generals, colonels, and majors, whose designations supplied the craving for titles or "handles to one's name," and which so puzzled the foreign students of American manners, until a terrible war brought the sham into too sharp a contrast with real military grades, but in America, the militia system, however, wherever and whenever tried, was never more than a farce. It did not suit the habits of the people, either north south, east, or west, although Volunteers for any actual service, either against the Indians, or against Mexico, or for fighting of any kind, were always abundant. The militia muster was compulsory, and therefore unpopular; it had no obvious purpose, and therefore appeared ridiculous. *Per contra*, nearly every town in America, and especially in the Southern and South western States, had its one or more Volunteer companies whom the State formally recognized as part of its organized force, by supplying them with arms, but otherwise left to themselves in all that regarded their internal government and discipline. They uniformed themselves more or less gaudily and grandly according to their own taste, and the only consideration the State expected, in return for the arms furnished was, that they should perform a certain amount of drill and of annual camp duty, and be at the orders of the civil authorities if a disturbance of the public peace, a conflagration, or other grave cause required the intervention of an armed force. These Volunteer companies were the first and only troops of whom the Confederacy could dispose on the outbreak of the War of Secession. They were the men who garrisoned Norfolk Navy Yard upon its precipitate abandonment by the Federal military authorities, and they were the men who won the victory of Bull Run, which first opened the eyes of Europe to the seriousness of the struggle. They had each and all volunteered to the governors of their respective States for war duty, such of their individual members as were from any cause prevented, resigning or constituting themselves depot companies at home. They had all exchanged their fancy uniforms for the sober Confederate grey, been

sworn into the Confederate service as twelve months enlisted men, and marched within a few hours notice to the seat of war, perhaps, in the case of the Gulf States, a thousand miles away from home. When the war assumed the dimensions we all know, and when after the battle of Bull Run, the Confederate Congress decided to raise at once 400 regiments instead of the 50 or 60 it had then under arms, these young men had already seen some six months pretty hard service, and they for the most part officered the new levies, their places in the ranks being taken by new recruits who thought it a great privilege to fill them.

I dwell upon this illustration because, while it exhibits the inevitable failure of a militia system which is inappropriate to the habits of a country, it seems to me to disprove the objection so often made against "mere militia" on account of supposed insufficient training. The Confederate troops to whom I have referred were in every sense of the word a "mere militia," but they were a voluntary one, at least in their original formation. I am satisfied from personal observation that a very few weeks will do wonders to make a man, who has his heart in the work, a soldier. and I greatly doubt whether the soldier once formed, is afterwards much improved by the routine of barracks and garrison duty. I have seen a few practised men suffice to make a whole company or even a battalion "smart" and efficient in some of the most difficult things that the "Regular" has to be taught such as promptness in pitching or striking tents, rapid shifting of quarters, night marches, and outpost duty. As for making the best of adverse or unexpected circumstances, in other words the art of taking care of himself, I feel sure that his ordinary civilian habits will almost always give the man who is only occasionally a soldier a marked superiority over the veteran trooper. I mean of course that the occasional soldier should not be part of a mere rabble, but be animated by that spirit, which, rather than drill makes a man reliable under fire. This is where, in my opinion, the Prussians had so much the advantage over the French.

In further confirmation of my view that it is not so much prolonged training that makes troops most effective, I may point to the fact that the most momentous struggles in history have generally been fought out with more or less raw troops. It is in the nature of things that the ready food for powder is first used up, and must be replaced, whether by conscription or enlistment, with recruits to whom there is no time to give the martinet polish of peaceful times. I believe I am right in saying that during the Peninsular campaign many regiments joined the future "Iron Duke" which had barely had a few weeks' drill before embarkation.

What then, I mean to say, with all due deference to more experienced opinions than mine, is that the Swiss military system is neither good because it is a militia system nor, on the other hand, is it bad because of that reason. It is singularly well adapted to Swiss circumstances and habits; it is not adapted in its present form to English circumstances and habits; but it contains principles and features which may be studied with profit and applied here. Among these I may mention the encouragement of boy Volunteers in the public schools and a greater development and elaboration of the local organization of the grown up Volunteers.

I see in the interest which has of late been bestowed upon the Swiss military institutions, the indication of a very decided progress in civilization. It is the tendency

of relying more upon the "reserve forces" than upon the huge "standing Army" and this implies short terms of service, suitable provision for the discharged soldier; in other words, his return to civil life, instead of forming a class or caste apart. It is the tendency also to do away with conscription, which to me, is the most objectionable of all forms of military service, and which, instead of making that service a training school as it ought to be, makes it a cause of national demoralization. Let us hope, also, that this tendency to a more popular form of military organization implies preparation for defence rather than attack, and thus point to the diminution of the causes of war.

But until the millennium of the Peace Society shall actually have dawned, I do not expect, nor would I wish to see standing armies altogether abolished. Great States, whether their colonies are in the four quarters of the globe, as those of Great Britain, or whether their expansion is confined to an internal self-development, as in the United States of America, require a force however small of professional soldiers. I go further and say, that independently of the peculiar circumstances of either Great Britain or America, no State which has great centres of population, can safely dispense with such a force. It need not be so large as to endanger public liberty, but it must be thoroughly efficient for maintaining public order, and it ought to afford a standard and a model to that Militia to which the State may then safely entrust the duty of national self defence.

GERMANY AND HER NEIGHBORS.

The German Empire is surrounded by three great neighbors, one of which is unconditionally hostile to it and eager for revenge; while the other two may be either good or bad neighbors, and it may, therefore, be said that they are not to be depended upon. Though it is problematical whether France will ever in the future attack us as she did last year, this much is certain, that she would eagerly advance to the attack if we were involved in a war with another great power, or even if she had any hope or prospect of foreign assistance against Germany. France may therefore be regarded as a ready and willing ally of any Power that wants to fight with Germany; no calculation or cool deliberation will ever restrain this her greatest passion. Last year she half counted upon the assistance of Austria; and there persons were not wanting who were inclined to answer her expectations. For Count Beust was a vigorous French partisan till November; but Russia would not have suffered the entrance of Austria into French service, with out undertaking something equivalent, and taking care to maintain the balance between West and East. In presence of this impending threat, the game was too dangerous for Austria, and the stake was not risked. Is it conceivable that a man or a party in Vienna will ever again give the advice to take the field with France against Germany? There is not a total want of reasons or pretences for such a course; several of them are easily to be discovered. It may be represented to the Hapsbourgs that Germany is exercising a too strong attractive power on their German subjects; and that it would, therefore, be well to take part in a French war for the purpose of weakening Germany. Or a party in Vienna may advise the Emperor to go to war in order to strengthen his power as a ruler in his Empire, after Napoleon's unlucky example; and the party there, which has certainly been hitherto hostile to Germany. With respect to such counsels, however, the

necessity of considering Russia's attitude would always be felt in Vienna. If Russia were to take advantage of the opportunity to advance on the Danube, the Hapsbourgs would have so much to do at home that they could hardly spare the time, even so much as to look about them in the German Empire.

While Austria is thus far from free, and can easily be restrained in her movements against Germany, it is otherwise with Russia. With her we have of late got on far better than with Austria, and for the present nothing divides us. But it is not on that account less than in Russia a powerful tendency, which is aiming at complete union, forms a determined opposition to all that belongs to Western Europe, and no less so to all that is German. This one-sided national tendency has not been removed or deprived of its sharpness by the well-intentioned innovations of the Emperor Alexander, which have gained so much applause in Europe. It not only continues to exist, but it even derives nourishment from those changes in the condition of society. One day, perhaps, we shall not be able to agree so well with it as with the more moderate policy of the present Government. That unscrupulous national tendency is striving to make its way in all directions. It is possible that it may first seek extension in Asia and in the south-eastern part of our Continent, and be satisfied with that; but it is also possible that it may soon direct its glances and longings to countries which more closely concern us. In the latter event, nothing would suit it better than the idea of an alliance with France against Germany. Therefore, we must create an armed force, not only capable of defending us against France, but also strong enough to put out of the head of that Russian party the thought of such an alliance with France. The task does not exceed our strength, now that Germany's western frontier has become so much stronger; but our ability to fight, at the same time, with two great Powers may have the happy result of producing the conviction in Russia that it is more advantageous to be the friend than the foe of Germany. If we are in a position to carry on war on two stages at the same time, our judgment on all possible undertakings of Russia will be important and worthy of consideration for her Government. And we may thereby prevent France from ever finding support in St. Petersburg against Germany—support for which Napoleon III. sued in vain. But from what we have already said, it follows, as a matter of course, that if our power and capacity for fighting procure us good relations with Russia we shall be all the more sure of Austria; for by an understanding with Russia we could always render it impossible for Austria to fight on the side of France: and Austria, if she were in such a position that she never could fight with us, would find it most convenient to be on good terms with us. In a word we have the great neighbours; it is not enough for us to be in a position to fight with one of them. No; we must be able to fight two of them, if we want to maintain and preserve what belongs to us.—*National Zeitung.*

The *Kriegspiel*, a game of war used in the German military schools and said to be a favorite pastime with Von Moltke, Prince Frederick Charles and other Prussian leaders, has been introduced into England, General Eyre having presented one to the War office. We presume this German affair is not very different from the excellent game invented a few years since by Major Richardson, a Confederate officer, which, however, was too costly for general use.

LOSS OF A TWELVE-TON GUN.

Oriental antiquaries will probably some day be made happy through a recent accident in Bombay Harbour. The *Fumna* a short time ago took out six brand new 12-ton guns for the protection of Bombay Harbour. We heard the strange report that one of them had been lost; we now know how. The authorities at Bombay foolishly refused to sanction an outlay of £120 to dock the ship, so that the guns might be safely put on shore. The captain had to do the best he could under the circumstances. Suitable tackle was obtained, and a boat capable, it was said, of taking two guns came alongside the *Fumna*. When the first cannon, well secured, was lowered into the boat it almost sank her. To save the boatmen the order was given to rehoist. The boat happily pulled off a little, for the slings intended for lowering proved insufficient for raising the mass of metal, and gave way. There were one tremendous splash, and the last was seen of the 12-ton gun. Divers could find no other trace of it than a sort of dimple in the mud where it had disappeared. They probed deep as a doctor would for a bullet, but with no success, and, considering the nature of the harbour bottom, some 25 feet of mud in parts, it is tolerably certain that this lost treasure will rest in its present bed for many centuries. The authorities were so impressed by the lesson of this slip, that they determined to take more care of the remaining five guns, and ordered the *Fumna* to be docked for the purpose of landing them. It must be confessed that the process of preserving specimens of our guns after this fashion is rather costly, as well as dangerous; £4000 is the estimated outlay. The captain of the *Fumna* will have but one opinion about the danger, for he was standing on the gun only half a minute before it broke away.—*The Herald*.

THE LAUNCH OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIP "HYDRA."—Her Majesty's ship *Hydra*, the armour-clad turret ship constructed by Messrs. J. Elder and Company, was launched from their works at Govan, Glasgow, on Thursday. She is 225 feet long and 35 feet broad, and 2107 tons burden, and is intended for coast defence, having a shallow draught of water, with a freeboard of only 3 feet 6 inches. The sides are protected by 7-inch armour above and 6 inch below the water line, fitted upon teak varying from 10 to 12 inches thick. The turrets are two in number, constructed of two thicknesses of half inch plates, and protected by armour plates 10 inches thick. Each turret carries 18 ton guns, firing projectiles weighing 300 pounds and containing 62 pounds of powder. These turrets can be turned not only by steam-engines, but also by hand, in the event of the former breaking down or being damaged. The *Hydra* will be propelled by twin screws, worked by engines of 250 nominal horse-power.

RIFLED GUNS FOR THE COLONIES.—A large number of 68-pounder smooth-bore guns are being converted into rifle 80-pounders at the Royal Gun Factories, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. The old 68-pounders weigh 95-cwt. each, and have a calibre of S.12; they are being fitted with a wrought-iron tube, rifled in three grooves, with a twist in 40, and their calibre will be 6.3. A number of these guns when finished will be forwarded to New South Wales for the use of that colony, which will reimburse the English Government the cost of the guns and the expenses of their conversion and shipment.

ALTERATION IN EQUIPMENT OF NINE POUNDER FIELD BATTERIES.—The rearrangement of the plan proposed by the Major General Sir Eardley-Wilmot's committee, for the equipment of the 9-pounder field batteries, is said to be as follows, viz.:—Upon the carriage itself, in lieu of the 4 case shot and cartridges for the same we shall have 6 case shot and cartridges—3 in aletree box. Upon the gun limber, in lieu of 12 Shrapnel, 4 common shell, and 2 case shot in each box, we shall have 12 Shrapnel and 6 common shell. The narrow chest between the two limber boxes will contain a proportion of time fuzes and friction tubes in cylinders, in addition to the percussion fuzes and friction tubes in cylinders which it carried before. The ammunition waggon limber will be similar in its arrangements to the gun limber, so far as regards the numbers and description of ammunition carried. A great change will, however, be made in the wagon body equipment. The fourth box has been restored, and the distribution of rounds will be as follows:—10 Shrapnel and 8 common shell in each of the front boxes, 11 Shrapnel and 7 common shell in each of the rear ones. The entire result will therefore be, taking both gun carriage and ammunition wagon with their limbers, 90 Shrapnel, 54 common shell, and 6 case shot, in all 130 rounds, in lieu of 54 Shrapnel, 34 common shell, and 12 case shot, in all 150 rounds, as proposed by General Wilmot's committee, showing a gain in the quantity of ammunition carried to the extent of 20 rounds. Additional space has been found for other cylinders, containing time fuzes, beneath the projectiles, the false bottoms of the limber boxes having been removed for this purpose. The packing of the different kinds of shot, by means of tow stuffed in between and around them, will also be abolished, and blocks on the box lids with a hole in the centre to fix the end of the projectile, similar to those at present in use in the service, will be restored for the purpose of steadying them.—*Broad Arrow*.

There is a ship now sailing from Holland built in 1578, when the Prince of Orange was fighting Phillip II of Spain, then at the zenith of his power. She was sailing to the Indies when the Hollanders organized themselves into the "Beggars of the Sea, and as privateersmen earned a reputation which astonished the world. This Dutch ship is called the "*Commissaries des Koning von der Heine*." She passed the Cape of Good Hope in October 1864, from Batavia to Holland, then two hundred and ninety-four years old. A few numbers back in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* is a notice that the whale ship *Kossau*, (another of Stephen Girard's ships, built at Philadelphia in 1801) was then undergoing repairs at New Bedford. Her planking is being removed, the first time for seventy years. The live oak timbers underneath are reported to be as sound as they were the day they were first put together.

RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE BRITISH AND GERMAN FLEETS.—The *Moscow Gazette* says that the abundant resources of Germany would enable her to create within a short time a fleet with which the English fleet alone could cope, and that this fleet, joined to the fortifications of Kiel, would reduce the Russian fleet in the Baltic to complete inaction. To prevent this the *Gazette* advocates the neutralisation of Denmark and the reunion with that country of Northern Sleswick, with Duppel and Alsen, according to Article 5 of the Treaty of Prague.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY.—No more cheering news ever reached Canada than the announcement that the survey of the Pacific Railway had been a perfect success. There had always been a lingering apprehension that the passages of the Rocky Mountains would present insurmountable difficulties, but we learn with unalloyed satisfaction that by the route surveyed through British Columbia, the gradients are lighter, the passes lower and the distance shorter than either the Central or Northern Pacific Railways. We have further information of almost equal importance. We are told that mineral deposits of the richest character have been traced throughout large areas of British Columbia, and that valleys of abounding fertility invited the admiration of the surveying parties. We must await the meeting of the Commons for the official report of geologists and surveyors, but enough is known to remove all doubts as to the feasibility of constructing a Canadian Pacific Railway.—*Daily News*.

AN AUSTRALIAN HONEY HOARD.—A tree was felled the other day at Sandy Creek, Wagga Wagga, for the purpose of procuring honey which it was known had been collected there by a rather large swarm of bees. When the tree was cut down, there was found in the hollow one of the most astonishing collections of honey ever known, probably to have been gathered by one swarm of bees. There were several immenso layers of comb 10 feet in length, and of great density, extending along the inside of the trunk, and almost clothing the hollow of the tree entirely. After it had been carried home, (having been wasted considerably by the fall of the tree, and the primitive mode on which it was collected), the comb yielded over 300lbs of honey of the purest quality.—*Melbourne Argus*.

THE DANIEL SHIP CANAL.—Some particulars of Commander Selfridge's exploration of the Isthmus of Panama have been communicated to the public, although the report has not yet been published. The route recommended is along the course of the River Atrato, and thence to Cupica Bay, on the Pacific Ocean. The work is calculated to cost over one hundred million dollars, the obstacles to rapid engineering progress being formidable. One of these difficulties is the construction of a tunnel, four miles in length, seventy feet wide, and one hundred and seventy high. The account does not tell us of the nature of the soil through which this excavation is to be made. The canal will require twenty two locks, nine rising from the Atlantic coast to the highest point, and thirteen descending thence to the Pacific.

LAURENCE.—This French weekly paper was founded in 1866, and has just received new strength by the addition of three gentlemen to its editorial staff, namely: Rev. T. LAFLEUR, pastor of France Baptist Church; Rev. D. CONSIDRAT of France, late pastor in Philadelphia, and now professor in the Presbyterian College; and Rev. C. A. DOMLET of Geneva, Switzerland, pastor of French Presbyterian church, all of Montreal. Being the only French Protestant journal in America and published on strictly catholic principles it ought to reach every Protestant French Canadian, Frenchman, Swiss or Belgian, on this Continent; every house of education where French is taught should also receive it. It contains literature, music, poetry, and Political and General News, as well as articles on Science, Agriculture, Temperance, &c.

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