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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, NOV. 15, 1894.

Notes and Comments

Alexander III Czar of Russia is dead and the world is now speculating as to the policy of his successor Nicholas II. On his temperament will hinge the peace of Europe and one may say that of the whole world.

The *Army Magazine*, published in Chicago, intimates to the Army and National Guard of our Cousins across the line that "the only way for them to be ever properly organized and equipped is for them to go gunning for what they want."

"Let us by comparing notes and study of the situation decide what we wish, and having that as the end constantly in view, camp on the trail of our legislators until they capitulate. In union there is

strength and in organization the only key to success. The interests of the service are nothing more or less than the real interests of the whole people."

This might have been written of Canada and its volunteers, so truly does it pen our situation.

Well, the MILITARY GAZETTE has cleared its decks for action and is ready to help as much as it can to find out what our volunteers want and then help them to get it.

One want we have found out, it is want of patriotism in the different legislative bodies that govern some of our provinces. So much has been spent in boodling and electioneering in some provinces that the provincial Rifle Associations cannot be allowed a few hundred a year, to help them in their work of training our volunteers in the skillful use of their weapons

Quebec and New Brunswick are the poverty stricken ones.

Nova Scotia allows her association \$300.00 a year.

New Brunswick nothing,

Quebec nothing.

Ontario \$1000.00.

Manitoba?

British Columbia \$800.00

Volunteers all through Canada will have heard with relief that the rumor that Capt. "Gat" Howard had been drowned in a storm off the Labrador coast was unfounded.

We ourselves thought it would take more than an ordinary storm to drown the gallant Captain.

"Sabreur" in a letter to the *Empire* claims that "A History of Cavalry" the work of Lt.-Col. George T. Denison, is but little known in this country. As a matter of fact, we believe the edition is entirely out of print, but it is likely that we may soon hear of another edition. There is no doubt many a cavalry officer who would like to own a copy of this most valuable and interesting work.

In England as with us volunteer officers are hard to find. In Canada it is especially in the case of the City Battalions, that the expenses of an officer are very high, it costing no inconsiderable amount in any of our cities to keep up a commission—and there is no doubt that many good officers are lost to the force on this account. An English officer suggests the following as a remedy for the end.

Major Hugh Clutterbuck, of the 1st Somerest Volunteer Battalion, suggests that the capitation grant might be increased to £7 10s., the extra £5 being placed in a separate fund. From this fund Major Clutterbuck proposes that junior officers joining for three or five years should be given a grant towards their clothing expenses, and a certain sum might be allowed towards marches out for companies or to lessen the mess expenses. If a young man left before the three or five years were over or failed to make himself efficient, he would have to pay back the sum or portion of the amount which had been advanced to him.

We do not ourselves see the feasibility of this scheme, but we do think that a volunteer's outfit is at present very needlessly expensive. It is our opinion that one parade and one fatigue uniform, this latter

being a very plain and cheap one, should be sufficient for any volunteer officer.

In New South Wales, the Government is kinder to its volunteers than Canada. We do not know the figures of its grant to them, but from the following, which applies to cadets, it would seem that the seniors must presumably be still better treated.

SENIOR CADETS.—The following is a synopsis of the instructions issued for the affiliation of Cadet companies and units to existing regiments and corps.—The Major-General Commanding is prepared to sanction the advance of £1 to the clothing fund of regiments (which sum will be recovered from Cadet grant for 1895), making £2 in all per head available, directly officers are appointed, and is further prepared to recommend a grant to captains of £5, and to subalterns £3, to assist in expense of uniform on joining. Uniform beyond that of undress will not be insisted upon. Officers of Cadet corps will rank junior of their respective ranks, and will not hold executive command except in the Cadet Force. Arms and accoutrements will be supplied. Cadets may be enrolled between the ages of fifteen and twenty years, and, as Cadets, they will not be liable for active service. Cadets now serving may be allowed to remain until they attain the age of twenty-one years. Officers will be expected to pass an examination for their first commission twelve months after *Gazette* notice of same. Night parades may be held where considered both advisable and convenient. Cadets medically fit, of requisite standard, and otherwise eligible may be transferred to partially-paid regiments and corps as vacancies occur on approval of commanding officers responsible. Ammunition will be granted to Cadets in similar proportion to that granted to the regiment or corps to which they are affiliated. They will also be entitled to similar privileges as regards travelling, meal allowances and train fares.—*Col. Mil. Gaz. New South Wales.*

This would show that the value of Cadet Companies, as a training school for volunteers, is well recognized by the Australians.

In the season's shooting for the Challenge Cup and Championship Jewel of the North of London Rifle Club, Col.-Sgt. Howell 2nd East Surrey made the following remarkable scores.

Five scores at long ranges (800 and 900 yards), five at short ranges, in Volunteer positions; and

five short ranges, in Any position. Half the scores at least at short ranges, to begin at 600 yards.

| SERIES A. | | | SERIES V. | | | SERIES G. | |
|-----------|-----|---------|-----------|-----|---------|-------------|--|
| 200 | 500 | 600 Tl. | 200 | 500 | 600 Tl. | 800 and 900 | |
| 34 | 33 | 32-99 | 31 | 31 | 32-97 | 84 | |
| 33 | 34 | 31-98 | 33 | 33 | 31-96 | 82 | |
| 35 | 32 | 29-96 | 34 | 33 | 31-95 | 77 | |
| 32 | 32 | 29-93 | 32 | 32 | 31-95 | 77 | |
| 32 | 30 | 30-92 | 30 | 33 | 31-91 | 77 | |
| 473 | | | 477 | | | 397 | |

The "*Maple Leaf*," the organ of the 100th Royal Canadians, says in a recent issue.

Both our Battalions will be proud of the cordial welcome which was bestowed upon the Canada Rifle Team at the Bisley Meeting this year. We hope it won't be very long now before some of the "Old 100th" meet the Canadian Team at this meeting regularly in the future. So say we all of us!

The Militia list for '94 has not reached us yet. We suppose the Government Printer's Devil has mislaid our copy.

A Golden Wedding.

From the *Lindsay Warder* we glean that on Nov. 4th, at Blackstock, Ont., Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes of Blackstock, Cartwright, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage in presence of their children and grand-children. Mr. Hughes was born in Tyrone, Ireland, in November 1823. His father was one of the old 67th "Royal Bengal" regiment, and was a descendant of the Welsh who settled in the north of Ireland in the 16th century. His mother was one of the McClungs of Tyrone, a Scotch family located in Ireland. Mrs. Hughes was born on St. Helen's island, Montreal, in May, 1827, her father being one of the Royal Horse artillery who saw service through the Peninsula, Waterloo and Indian campaigns. He was a descendant of the Scotch Laughlins who settled in Ireland. Mrs. Hughes' mother was a Huguenot, daughter of a French cuirassier officer, Puirier de St. Pierre, under Buonaparte. Fifty years ago the marriage of the now aged couple took place in Ireland, where the Laughlin family had retired. The following year Mr. and Mrs. Hughes came to Canada and settled in Darlington, near Bowmanville, in which township they resided for many years; but for upwards of a century Cartwright has been their residence. The children present on Sunday last were:—

James L. Hughes, inspector of schools Toronto; Mrs. Mary Scott of Toronto; Major John Hughes of Newtonville, Clarke; Major Sam. Hughes M.P., of Lindsay; Mrs. Elizabeth McAlpine; Mrs. Sarah

Jobb; Mr. Annie Beacock; Mrs. Lea Thexton; William Hughes, warden's clerk in Kingston penitentiary. There were twenty-one grand-children present, and only six absent. The jovial old couple were presented with numerous tokens of regard, not the least being a purse of sovereigns from their progeny. A most enjoyable anniversary was commemorated the happy couple seeming as lively as any of the sons and daughters.

The CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE is sure that all of its readers will join it in wishing the venerable couple, many more years of a happy old age.

The Action of Rifle Bullets.

The celebrated German physiologist, Professor du Bois-Reymond, has just published some important observations on the effect of modern rifle bullets on the human body. In this paper he says: "The bullet of an old rifle bored but a comparatively small hole through the parts of the body through which it passed, whereas the new bullet has an astonishing effect. If, for instance, the ball passes through the head of a corpse, the skull is burst asunder in all directions, and very little of the head remains. We cannot precisely define the conditions of the aggregation of a body. A piece of bottle, lac, or sealing-wax, if long exposed to uniform pressure, dissolves, but it bursts into sharp-edge-splinters if the blow of a hammer produces on it an effect which, measured in killogramme metres, is equal to perhaps a small fraction of the pressure when slowly exercised. We can, therefore, recognise the conditions of aggregation only by the consequences of mechanical operations on such bodies, and these consequences are quite different, though the operations do not differ at all in quality, but only in duration. Sealing-wax is an example of an apparently solid body, but which turns out to be a fluid if only we operate upon it slowly enough. The generally known phenomena of glaciers shew that ice behaves in a similar way. It is not possible, then, that water, which is generally regarded as a fluid, may behave as a solid, if only the time of operation can be made short enough? Every swimmer knows that he is liable to receive very severe blows from the water if he takes a header from a considerable height unskillfully. In order, however, to dash a vessel filled with water at the head of a corpse, and shatter it into small pieces like a lump of ice, a blow of such extraordinary velocity is necessary that it was not possible for such a phenomenon to be observed before the invention of the new rifles, which propel missiles with a velocity of 650 metres a second. If my speculation be correct, the effect of the new bullet is by no means an explosion, but merely a dashing to pieces, exactly the same as the well-known process of the bursting asunder of drops of hardened glass when the point is broken off.

OUR SERVICE CONTEMPORARIES.

During the recent German manœuvres an innovation in shoe leather was experimented with by a company belonging to the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards. In place of the boot soles being furnished with nails, they were soaked in a preparation of linseed oil and fine scrap iron. This composition, it is asserted, leaves the leather supple, and at the same time causes the soles to wear much longer than if studded with hobnails. It is to be hoped the experiment proved successful, and that further details on the subject will be speedily forthcoming. Even if it proves to have been only moderately successful, the expedient has manifest advantages over the alternative—also being tried—of using aluminium nails.

The re-arming of the whole of the Indian (Native) Army with Martini rifles has been completed.

None too soon, it is thought, public indignation would seem to be reaching the boiling point regarding the shameful desecration that has for some time past been night'y committed upon the Nelson Monument in Trafalgar Square. No Englishman, be he a naval man or otherwise, can witness this insult offered to the memory of our great naval hero without feeling shame for the perpetrators and the authorities that permit it, and it is agreed with a writer to the Times that there is no difference between throwing flaring, blatant advertisements in electric light on to monuments and public buildings that ought to be respected and plastering bills. One is as unsightly as the other.

It is certainly believed that, in no other country in Europe, would such a thing be permitted. There is some satisfaction felt that counsel's opinion should have been given that "the owners of the buildings affected by the advertisements can proceed for trespass or nuisance;" but it is greatly feared that the vandalism will not be put a stop to until Parliament can be induced to amend the Metropolitan Police Act, and extend its control to this form of advertisement. Provincial communities should also, it is felt, be given ample powers to suppress this novel form of nuisance.

It is pointed out that the statement that the United States battle-ship *Maine*, which during her recent trials attained a speed of 17.55 knots, and proved herself the fastest ship of her class in the world, is a mistake. Our barbette ships *Barfleur* and *Centurion* are 18.5 knot ships, the latter during her trials attaining a speed of 18.51 knots by *Ler log*. The whole of the Royal Sovereign class are capable of steaming as fast as the *Maine*, whilst the Royal Oak steamed 18.5 by *log* on her trial.

Very disquieting news comes from the East; the raw levies of Chinese troops are looked upon as a serious menace to the safety of the Empire, and foreigners

and natives alike are removing to the coast for safety. Intense corruption is said to prevail, and the Emperor's disgraced uncle has been recalled and associated with the Viceroy in the conduct of the war. There seems to be no doubt about the evacuation of *Wi-Ju* in face of the Japanese; we are told, however, that the Chinese general preferred to fight with the river in front of him rather than behind him. Central News telegrams from Shanghai state that the Governor of the Manchurian province of Kirin reports the landing of the Japanese force near *Hunchun*. Forces are being organized to meet the invaders. From *Hankow* it is reported that the province of *Hoo-pe* has been quite denuded of troops, and that turbulent demonstrations are taking place, while the authorities have no means of seeking the people in check. All the European women and children are to be sent down as soon as possible to Shanghai for safety.

It is announced that a submarine torpedo-boat, capable of sinking to any depth and travelling under the water as quickly as on the surface without revealing its presence, has been invented by Mr. Seymour Allen, a resident in Sydney. The model was tried at Melbourne on Monday, in presence of Lord Hopetoun and a number of naval and military officers. The experiments were a complete success, the model rising or sinking, stern or bow, turning, reversing, remaining stationary, in obedience to the electric current by which it is worked. The inventor claims that a full-sized boat would be capable of remaining under water for three days. It would carry torpedoes on the bow and stern decks. When fired the projectiles would be magnetically attracted to the bottom of an enemy's ship. Rear-Admiral Bowden-Smith, commanding on the station, who inspected the model at Sydney, is reported to have declared that if the vessel would do what the model performed it would revolutionise naval warfare.

At a public meeting convened by the Acting Chief Justice, and presided over by the Governor, at the City Hall, Hong Kong, on the 27th ult., the following resolution was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted: "That this meeting resolves that the services rendered to the community during the recent plague by those who assisted us are worthy of recognition." The Governor having opened the meeting in a short speech, the Acting Chief Justice (the Hon. E. J. Ackroyd) expressed the gratitude of the community for the invaluable services rendered by the volunteers from the 1st battalion Shropshire Light Infantry, the Permanent Committee, the Medical Staff, the Civil Volunteers' Hospital Nurses, and others. He said that among the glorious records of the Shropshires in the Peninsula, in India, Egypt, and the Soudan, the noble manner in which they had come forward and rendered their invaluable help to the Colony in the hour of need would not be considered the least of their achievements. A committee was

appointed to carry the first resolution into effect.

From Lagos comes intelligence that the chief Nana, whose town on the Benin River was stormed by a British punitive force on September 25, has arrived there and given himself up to the authorities. Nana, who took the flight after the capture of his stronghold, proceeded to Lagos by the bush route without any followers. He throws himself upon the clemency of the British Government, appealing to the Foreign Office to have the matters in dispute adjusted on the spot.

The French military papers severely criticise the inadequacy of the Army Estimates proposed for 1895. These amount to, in round figures, 593,000,000 francs for ordinary expenditure and 45,000,000 francs extraordinary expenses, making a total of 638 million francs. On the other hand, the German Budget for 1894-95, submitted to the Reichstag in March last, amounted to 600,000,000 francs for ordinary expenditure (an increase of 65 million francs) and 188 million francs for extraordinary expenditure, making a total, for Army purposes, of 788 million francs, or, in other words, £6,000,000 in excess of the amount which it is proposed to ask for the French Army. The French Army Estimates, moreover, it is asserted, provide for certain important expenses, such as Gendarmerie, etc., which are not borne by the German military Budget, so that the actual sum available for Army services proper in reality only amounts to a total of 563 millions, including the extraordinary expenditure. The French papers have also unanimously entered into a crusade against the illusory character of the numbers annually voted as compared with those actually borne, and called for a prompt remedy to be applied to the palpable deficiencies which exist between the numbers which are supposed to constitute the nominal French company and the actual figures. As the points involved in the controversy seriously affect the organisation of the French Army, we propose to return to this question on an early occasion.

FIGHTING IN EAST AFRICA.

DURBAN, Sept. 18th.

Some details have reached here of serious fighting in the Congo Free State between the great Arab chief Rumiliza and a Belgian force. In the earlier fighting the Belgian allies lost heavily, and a meeting under a flag of truce was then arranged. Friendly salutations were exchanged, but the conference had scarcely opened when the Arab powder magazine exploded. Both sides suspected treachery, and in the confusion guns were discharged and the fight became general. The Arabs tried to escape, but all avenues were closed to them, and they were cut down without quarter. Rumiliza effected his escape, but the flower of his braves fell. Over thirty Arab chiefs were killed, and property value 300,000 lakhs was lost. Rumiliza after the fight sought to make his way to Tanganyika to ask permission to march to the coast, via Nyassa, and the Zambesi. Rumilia has frequently shown a friendly disposition towards the British.

News of the Service.

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

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

Toronto.

On the 26th the annual rifle matches of the 12th York Rangers were held at the Long Branch Ranges and a large number of riflemen turned out for them.

The following were the principal prize winners:

THE WAYLING MATCH.

Seven shots at two, four, and five hundred yards.

| | Score, |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Lieut. Mitchell..... | 95 |
| Sergt. A. Bell..... | 91 |
| Capt. Brown..... | 89 |
| Sergt. Simpson..... | 89 |
| Col.-Sergt. Foreman..... | 86 |
| Sergt. Bayles..... | 86 |
| Sergt. Ronan..... | 84 |
| Sergt. Stokes..... | 83 |
| Sergt. Thompson..... | 83 |
| Lieut. Elliott..... | 83 |
| Sergt. Davidson..... | 82 |
| Capt. Nichol..... | 81 |
| Sergt. Mowat..... | 80 |
| Lieut. Curran..... | 79 |
| Capt. Wayling..... | 78 |
| Pte. Parker..... | 76 |
| Capt. Uaitt..... | 75 |
| Major Lloyd..... | 74 |
| Pte. Gadsby..... | 72 |
| Lieut.-Col. Wayling..... | 70 |
| Corp. Gadsby..... | 70 |
| Sergt. Low..... | 67 |
| Pte. Shaw..... | 65 |
| Col.-Sergt. Fawcett..... | 59 |
| Sergt.-Major Taylor..... | 57 |
| Chaplain Johnson..... | 56 |
| Pte. Jeffries..... | 54 |
| Capt. Fennell..... | 54 |
| Sergt. Leslie..... | 51 |
| Lieut. Gillies..... | 46 |
| Pte. Brooks..... | 44 |
| Pte. L. Wye..... | 42 |
| Col.-Sergt. Bloomer..... | 40 |
| Lieut. McDonagh..... | 39 |
| Pte. Geo. Warren..... | 38 |

THE LLOYD MATCH.

The Lloyd open only to members of the battalion who had not at any previous prize meeting of the D. R. A., O. R. A., or 12th Battalion won a prize of \$3 or upwards. Seven shots at two and four hundred yards.

| | Score. |
|------------------------|--------|
| Lieut. A. Gillies..... | 44 |
| Sergt. Fawcett..... | 44 |
| Pte. Warren..... | 38 |
| Pte. Neigh..... | 37 |
| Pte. Brooks..... | 36 |
| Major Thompson..... | 32 |
| Pte. Brambles..... | 31 |
| Pte. A. Mills..... | 29 |
| Corp. Over..... | 26 |
| Pte. Martin..... | 23 |
| Pte. Brambles, jr..... | 22 |

THE THOMPSON MATCH.

The Thompson match open only to officers of the battalion. Seven shots at two, four, and five hundred yards.

| | Score. |
|------------------------|--------|
| Lieut. Mitchell..... | 95 |
| Capt. F. W. Brown..... | 89 |
| Lieut. A. Elliott..... | 83 |
| Capt. Nichol..... | 81 |

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Lieut. Curran..... | 79 |
| Capt. Wayling..... | 78 |

THE COUNTY MATCH.

In the county match, open to all, seven shots were fired, at four hundred yards, with the following result:

| | Score. |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Sergt. Bell..... | 35 |
| Sergt. Davidson..... | 34 |
| Lieut. Curran..... | 33 |
| Lieut. Mitchell..... | 33 |
| Sergt. Ronan..... | 32 |
| Capt. F. Brown..... | 32 |
| Sergt. Simpson..... | 32 |
| Sergt. Bayles..... | 32 |
| Major Lloyd..... | 31 |
| Capt. Nichol..... | 31 |
| Sergt. Stokes..... | 30 |
| Lieut. Elliott..... | 29 |
| Sergt. Thompson..... | 29 |
| Col.-Sergt. Foreman..... | 28 |
| Capt. Wayling..... | 27 |
| Col. Wayling..... | 27 |
| Pte. Gadsby..... | 27 |
| Pte. Parker..... | 27 |
| Sergt. Taylor..... | 26 |
| Sergt.-Major Taylor..... | 25 |

The D. R. A. gold and silver medals for the highest aggregate scores were won by Lieut. Mitchell and Sergt. Bell respectively.

The last companies of the city regiments have undergone their inspection at the hands of the D. A. G., much no doubt to his intense relief, and yet perhaps with so small exhibition of delight by the companies themselves.

The greater portion of the competition has been gone through, the only remaining portion being the inspection of company stores, arms and armouries, books and records.

Hazarding a guess at the result of the competition, one is inclined to think that the 13th Battalion of Hamilton are going to be pretty near top of the list as their big lead in shooting will give them an immense advantage over all their competitors, and their companies (as indeed the companies of the Grenadiers and Highlanders as well) being drilled in single rank may enable them to score a little easier than the Queen's Own who paraded and drilled seven out of its ten companies in two ranks.

The acoustic properties of the new drill hall are of the worst possible description, and the government inspectors who heard the terrible echo while the companies were being exercised, will surely draw the attention of the authorities to the necessity of taking steps to overcome this most serious drawback.

Foresight was indeed lacking by the layer of the plans for this hall, and a great many faults will be found by the different regiments when they come to take up their quarters in their new home.

In no cases will expectations be realized except in the case of the Officers Mess for the different regiments, their rooms being about the only redeeming feature of the building.

The armouries are disappointingly small as are any of the recreation or lecture rooms, whilst the size of the band practise rooms utterly preclude many more than ten or twelve men with the big drum banding room at one time.

The contracts for fitting up the armouries have not yet been let and as the con-

tract is of three months duration, no hopes of the regiments being in it this year are now being entertained, although the rifle committees of the three regiments are in hopes that permission will be granted to them to carry out Morris-tube practise in the shooting galleries during the winter months.

Picked shots from the different regiments went out to the rifle ranges a couple of Saturdays ago in order to test the Martini-Metford rifles, a number of which were sent to each regiment with 100 rounds of ammunition to each rifle.

The tests were not as highly satisfactory as one would imagine, judging from the promises as to what the rifle would be, although sufficient time has not been allowed to enable any shot to render a final decision.

The rifles were fired with black powder and in all cases the shots went to the right, even with some allowing as much windage as they had done all season with the Martini. Some incline to the opinion that the foresight is placed too far to the left whilst others held that this would be remedied by the use of cordite instead of black powder. Others again would prefer to test the rifle in a gale of wind and with a hot bright day to note how the barrel heats compared with the Martini.

A great many incline to the belief that the best interest of the militia would be served by the purchase of the Lee-Metford at the outset, instead of wasting money as many seem to think it will be on a converted rifle.

Major Buchan has returned greatly delighted with his trip to the old country and whilst there managed to combine a great deal of duty and pleasure. Besides acquitting himself very creditably on all occasions, the Major has acquired a stride and pace that if applied to No. 2 Company more than once in a month will bring that crack little corp to the verge of despair. The most moderate credit him with a stride of thirty-three inches, and with working 133 to 135 of them in every minute.

Lt.-Col. Hood, of Montreal, was an interested spectator at the drill hall during the inspection of some of the companies of the three regiments as was also the well-known military correspondent of the Montreal Gazette, of Montreal, who with his better half witnessed the inspection of B. G. and I. Co's. Q. O. R. on Wednesday evening the 31st October.

Major General Herbert inspected the Royal Canadian Dragoons on the 22nd and 23rd October last.

The General made a thorough inspection (as is his nature) and complimented Major Lessard very highly on the condition in which he found the corps.

He also called out and complimented Sergt.-Major Dingley on the bearing and the work of the non-commissioned officers.

Lieut. D. McMahon, who has recently been transferred to No. 2 Company, is away on three months leave of absence. The beginning of the leave was signalized by his wedding Miss MacKay, of Ottawa, before one of the largest and most fashionable assemblies of wedding guests ever assembled in Ottawa. The greater portion of the honeymoon will be spent in Europe.

On Monday evening, the 5th inst., a farewell smoking concert was tendered Capt. J. C. Macdougall by the members of the military institute, on the occasion of his departure for St. Johns, Quebec. There were upwards of a hundred present, and opposite the names of almost every officer of the city corps could present be marked.

A choice programme was contributed by Major Beechan, Major Manley, Lieut. Wyatt, Lt.-Col. Denison, Lieut. Boyd, Mr. C. A. B. Brown and others.

During the evening a slight souvenir of the occasion was presented to Captain Macdougall, who gratefully thanked the many present for their kind wishes for his future welfare, and trusted that all would think of him sometime away down east.

Without any fear of denial, I can safely affirm that the hardest inspection in the history of Toronto regiments was the one that is now being completed. Whether the results will justify its severity or not, remains to be seen, but to judge from the present feeling of a great many, the thing has been overdone, and will effect its own cure, but unfortunately at the expense of the regiments.

The general officer commanding appears to forget that these men are volunteers, having a desire for soldiering, yet also having to devote a little of their time to the cares of a business life.

While the work laid down was not what might be called difficult, yet when the time the different regiments have at their disposal is reckoned up, the lack of ground to drill in, and the loss of time in reaching the grounds now used are taken into consideration, it is simply impossible to get the companies into anything like shape without trespassing on other nights in the week for company drill.

Of course, some might say that all the men in the ranks should know this work, which may be very true, but the fact is, that they don't, and the three regiments are so keen to increase their parade states that the recruit obtains his uniform long before he should, and for sometime remains a drag on the company he is posted to.

Again, officers and non-commissioned officers have a great deal of their time taken up on other than drill nights looking after the interior work of their companies, looking up deserters from a previous parade, recruiting or some other of the many things that make a great demand on time, and which are not brought to general notice, yet despite all these they are expected to employ their remaining spare hours in getting up detail drill for anything and everything,

from squad drill to extended order, including a manual exercise of about thirty-two motions.

This is not an impossibility by any means. It can be done and has been done, but to my mind it is an effectual check to the military ardor of most men who would willingly under ordinary methods put in lengthy terms of service, but now under the present system realize that they are getting up almost as much work as the permanent corps with none of the assistance or advantages.

The decrease in the parade states the last few nights is regarded by some as an indication of what the future holds forth, and if any desire exists in any quarters to cut down the strength of the militia with a view to raising and maintaining a standing army, possibly this will be the easiest method to adopt; but why, in all conscience should the city corps be the first to suffer, considering the time and money that is annually spent by all ranks.

Despite these handicaps, there is no other district in the Dominion whose regiments will excel the work of the Toronto and Hamilton regiments at this inspection, and if our legislators had been present and were capable of judging the work performed by the non-commissioned officers as a whole, they could only form one opinion, and that would be that if these non-comms. could get up this work as well as they have done, taken as a whole, there seems to be no real live necessity for maintaining the present schools of instructions, maintained as they are at such a cost to the country.

Judging from the work of some of the officers, one would think that immediately following their return from the school of instruction wherein they qualified for their commission, considerable time must have been spent in praying to the Gods for the gift of forgetfulness, and that their prayers were answered in full, as in some cases the attempts at giving the detail for the simplest company movement were most ludicrous.

In a great many instances the company work was very well performed, and very few of the companies but proved that with capable handling good results could be obtained.

However, this state of affairs will, I suppose, always exist where commissions are taken out by men more desirous for social positions and a frivolous ambition for fancy uniforms than for a downright love of soldiering at heart.

The population of Japan is a little over 41,000,000, the gain since 1882 being 4,400,000. There are 111 towns having 10,000 to 30,000 inhabitants; 36 which have over 100,000, and three, Tokio, O aka and Kioto, which have over 300,000. The statistics of emigration show that the whole number of Japanese resident abroad is a little less than 40,000, the Sandwich Islands and the United States receiving the majority of the emigrants. The activity of the business which was introduced by the opening of the islands to foreign trade is shown by the fact that exports increased three-fold in the ten years preceding 1892, in which year they were a trifle less than \$100,000,000, and imports about \$75,000,000.

Montreal.

Things military, like the weather, are rather dull. Here and there a rift is to be seen in the clouds, which promise liveliness before long. The Sergeants of the Prince of Wales, on the anniversary of the Prince of Wales' birthday (53rd) held their annual ball in their quarters at the drill shed. Among those present were noticed Lieut.-Col. and Miss Houghton, Major and Mrs. Roy, B.M.; Lieut.-Col. Gray, Captain and Miss Frenette, Lieut.-Col. Maticc, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Butler Lieut.-Col. Bond, Mrs. and Miss Bond Major Bond, Major Cooke, Captains Finlayson, Bond, Dobbin, Lefebvre, Bartlett, Porteous and Hood, Drs. Roddick and Ross, Capt. E. K. Greene, Maj. Rogers, Dr. F. W. Campbell, Mr. F. S. Meighen.

The Victoria Rifles Reserve Association held their annual meeting on Thursday evening, Nov. 8th. The following officers were elected: President, Capt. Sully; vice-president, Captain A. Anderson; secretary-treasurer, C. Gavill; and the Council of "G" as follows: J. L. Gardiner, S. Howard, P. Macdonald, W. Millar, C. P. O'Connor, T. Ramsay, F. Spence, A. Rudolph and J. Johnson. Most of these are new brooms, and great things are hoped of them.

The veterans of a battalion can by their moral weight often help the active members to a very great extent, and it is a wonder that their association is not more heartily supported than it is.

The Vics. are wondering how about the taxes on their armory, and if the school commissioners will be allowed to collect their little bill. At present the armory is the official as well as the real headquarters of this corps, and has as such, we should judge, the same privileges, so far as tax exemptions, as government property. What lawyers will decide, however, is hard to foretell.

Work on the floor of the drill shed is progressing, and it is supposed that all will be complete by the middle of December.

The following letter from the D. A. G., in reply to a letter from Mr. Cooper, asking for permission for the volunteers to take part in the contest, which is a feature of "Gordon Relief," presented by the Players' club at the Queen's for the free coal fund, will be read with interest:

HEADQUARTERS, MIL. DISTRICT NO. 5,
MONTREAL, P.Q., Oct. 19, 1894.

Ashley Cooper, Esq.:

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your communication, dated the 17th inst., requesting on behalf of the Players' club, of this city, permission for those of the militia city corps to assist in the performance to take place at the Queen's theatre on the nights of December 17th, 18th and 19th, in aid of the "Free Coal fund," I have much pleasure in informing you, and the club which you represent, that I see no cause of objection to the granting of this

permission, the more especially in view of the very worthy object of the proposed entertainment.

Please be good enough when conveying the purport of this letter to members of the "Players' club" to add that they have my fullest sympathy in this matter, and that I wish them every success in the result of so charitable and praiseworthy an undertaking.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. F. HOUGHTON, Lt.-Col.,
D.A.G., M.D. No. 5.

The trophies referred to are well worthy of keen competition, and the donors deserve every credit for their generosity. It is to be hoped that the affair will be a big success in consideration of its charitable object. Who will win?

"A" company of the Royal Scots will have their annual ball and supper on Thanksgiving night.

The non-coms. class of the Montreal Garrison Artillery will start on Wednesday evening next, and all gunners and others before they can be promoted will have to secure a certificate. The class will be under the instruction of Sergeant-Major Instructor Fellows, who has just returned after spending two months at Woolwich, Eng., where he had been receiving instruction in heavy ordnance work. By the way, the Sergeant-Major was handsomely complimented while there over the manner in which he handled a 38-ton gun.—*Montreal Gazette.*

Kingston.

KINGSTON, Oct. 29th.—Major-General Herbert inspected "A" Field Battery on Thursday last, on Barriefield Common. Only four guns and two ammunition wagons were paraded, as the corps is short of horses, three of those which formerly belonged to it having been transferred to Quebec while the Artillery camp at La Prairie was in progress.

The battery was inspected first by subdivisions, from the right, then the foot parade and the short course men were passed in review. The march past, trot past, and rank past followed, and were splendidly executed, at rattling speed. The sword exercise, by the non-coms., and various field movements by the mounted portion of the parade, brought this part of the inspection to a close.

In the afternoon the books, horses, stables, etc., were inspected, and the major-general expressed himself as being well pleased, with the horses especially. The field movements, etc., he said, were "very good."

In the evening the major-general and his A.D.C., Capt. Streatfield, were entertained at a dinner by the battery officers, which was attended by the majority of the local military men.

The "A" Battery sports, held in the skating rink last week, proved entirely successful. The musical ride was especially good, and reflects much credit on Riding-Instructor Gimblett, who had

only two weeks in which to prepare men and horses.

Major Drury says he is confident that the Artillery camp, as held at La Prairie last month, will become an annual affair. If a safe and suitable location can be found in the neighborhood of this city, efforts will be made to have the camp held here next year. The principle difficulty with regard to a location here, would be to find a safe range.

Exceptional activity is being manifested this autumn in the 14th Batt. P. W. O. R. and the most gratifying success has, so far, attended every undertaking. Some weeks ago Lieut. C. M. Strange paraded his company—No. 2—for drill, and was gratified to meet a turn-out of 22 men—something noteworthy, considering that autumn drill has not been practiced until this year. Other companies have followed the good example set by No. 2, and are now drilling regularly, and are doing good work.

Then, again, Morris tube practice has been begun, and much interest therein is being shown by both officers and men, and some very fair scores have been made. Two inter-company matches have been fired at 200 yards between No. 2, Lieut. C. M. Strange commanding, and No. 5, Capt. Kent commanding. In both of these No. 2 was victorious. Lieut. Strange offered riflemen's badges to the members of his company making the highest scores at the second and subsequent matches. Capt. Newman won the badge at the second match, with a score of 22 out of a possible 25. Pte. Birtles made the highest score—19—in No. 5 company.

Arrangements have been made by the officers of the regiment whereby the old Collegiate Institute building will be converted into a regimental gymnasium, and will be equipped with the apparatus necessary to a first-class school of athletics. Sergt.-Major Morgans will be the instructor, and the place will be opened as soon as the weather becomes too cold to drill in the old drill shed.

At the recent "A" Battery sports, the 14th Battalion tug-of-war team defeated the Battery team. The captain of the latter has issued a challenge to the Riflemen for a second trial of strength. The gage has been accepted, and the "tug" will be decided in a few days.

Sergt.-Major Morgans attributes his defeat at the hands of Sgt.-Major Kelly, of Halifax, partly, and his tie with Sergt.-Instructor Hawker, entirely, to lack of practice. It is not probable that he will enter the arena again with either of these rivals before next mid-summer.

Ten of the new Martini-Metford rifles have arrived for the 14th Batt., and are in the hands of Capt. Hora, by whom they will be tested in a few days. No cordite cartridges accompanied the arms.

The sergeants of the 14th Batt. may organize a mess this winter.

Mr. S. Martin, of the *Daily News*, has been offered the captaincy of the Barricfield company of the 47th, "Frontenac," Battalion.

VIDETTE.

KINGSTON, Nov. 9.—Staff-Sergt. FARRIER Scott, of the 1st Battery, Royal Artillery, stationed at Woolwich, has been attached with the above rank to "A" Field Battery, R.C.A. He has served in the Royal Artillery for 19 years, of which nine were spent in India. He wears the medal for long service and good conduct. He acted for two years as anchor man on the Royal Artillery tug-of-war team, which during the period mentioned held the championship of the Imperial Army. His weight at present is 245 pounds, and he will, no doubt, be placed on the "A" Battery tug-of-war team for the coming contest between that team and that of the 14th Battalion.

Staff-Sergt. Scott, accompanied by his wife and two daughters, arrived in the city on Monday last. The voyage from England was made on the steamship *Parisian*.

There is a possibility that the "musical ride" as presented at the recent "A" Battery sports will be repeated at an early date. The ride was perhaps the most popular feature of the sports, so far as the spectators were concerned, and a request has been made that it be presented again. If the necessary arrangements can be made so as to permit of the ride taking place before the weather becomes too cold, it will, without a doubt, be witnessed by a large number of citizens. The services of the band of the 14th Batt., P. W. O. R., have been asked for the occasion.

There are quite a number of the members of "A" Field Battery, who are entitled to receive the medal for long service, to be issued to the Colonial Militia. Among others, Sergt.-Major Stroud and Acting-Sergt. Hamilton have served long enough to entitle them to the decoration. Acting-Sergt. Hamilton, who takes his discharge this month, has served within a few days of 26 years, and Sergt.-Major Stroud has a somewhat shorter period to his credit.

Agnes, the seven-year-old daughter of Sergt. Charles Wolfe, of the Battery, died on Sunday afternoon, 4th inst., after an illness lasting several weeks. The funeral was attended by many of the sorrowing father's comrades.

The recently re-organized band of "A" Field Battery is practising regularly and faithfully under the direction of Trumpet-Major Carey, and is making very satisfactory progress.

Riding Instructor Gimblett is drilling the R. M. C. Cadet's riding class.

The 14th Battalion's gymnasium will be opened on Tuesday evening, 13th

inst., when "B" and "E" companies will put in their first practice there. For some time, two companies will practice on the same evening. The gymnasium is comfortably heated, well lighted by electricity, and equipped with all the necessary apparatus. Good results are looked for from its establishment.

The company officers of the 14th have been notified that the armories, arms, clothing, etc., of the different companies of the battalion will be inspected in a few days.

The 14th has not its full complement of officers, and the work, consequently, falls more heavily upon the present officers of the corps. But this difficulty is to be remedied shortly. A number of prominent young citizens will take commissions in the battalion, and several of the provisionally appointed officers will qualify during the coming winter. The outlook for the coming season is exceptionally bright.

R. M. Horsey, merchant, brother of Capt. E. Horsey, chief of police, and who was a member of one of the early independent rifle companies, died on Wednesday, 6th inst.

Ottawa.

The recent change in the colonelcy of the Guards is still in abeyance. If the senior major were promoted it would meet with popular favor, and of this there appears to be little doubt. While referring to the Guards it may be as well, however, to recall the fact that within the past five years there have been as many commanding officers connected with this corps, Colonels Ross, Macpherson, Tilton, Todd, Toller and with the present vacancy which will swell the number to six when the new appointment is made.

With the 43rd there also appears to have been some difficulty in retaining their commandants, due mainly to the fact that the departmental regulations of the civil service prevent those holding prominent positions in the civil branch holding commands in the militia service.

What applies to the 43rd applies with equal force to the Guards. Colonels Ross, Macpherson, Tilton, Toller and Todd have all occupied positions in the public service, which may also be said of Cols. White and Anderson of the 43rd.

While there is nothing in the statute to prevent civil servants holding commands in the militia, several of the executive heads of the departments have made it a departmental regulation that a combination of military and civil service is not compatible with efficiency.

The Ottawa Field Battery under the command of Major Bliss is making rapid advances towards efficiency, and with another year in camp will probably become the premier Field Battery of the Dominion. At least the major says that is the point he is aiming at.

The Princess Louise Dragoon Guards will probably be one of the best equipped corps in the country. Capt. Gourdeau has arranged with the department of militia for a new issue of saddlery, and this with their present equipment will give them a status as regards their appointments that will be inferior to none in the country.

What about the issue of furs to the regiments that may be called upon for Guards of Honor?

Halifax.

We are looking for a correspondent in the "Garrison city."

It is said that the report that the King's regiment was going to remain here another year was probably correct. During the short time the regiment has been in the city over 100 of the men have been married, and there have been many desertions. The detention of the King's regiment here is the bringing into effect of the orders issued by the military authorities at home that Halifax which has for many years been about the first place for troops to be stationed, on foreign service, will be the last. This move is principally due to the great many desertions on this station. The military contend that if Halifax is made the last station for regiments on foreign service, there will not be nearly so many deserters, as most of the men's service being then about up, they would prefer finishing it and return to England, and get their pay. It remains to be seen how the scheme will work.

It is understood that Col. Hamilton will retire from the command of the King's regiment in the spring and that Major Stone will be his successor.

Inspection of the 63rd Rifles.

Under general order 46, dated 8th June, the date of company inspection of the 63rd Halifax Rifles was set down for the 22nd and 24th October, and accordingly one-half of the battalion paraded on the 22nd for that purpose.

There was a large gathering of spectators, including several officers of the H. G. A. and 66th, as well as a sprinkling of the fair sex, who seemed much interested in the various evolutions.

In former years Co's. 1, 2 and 3 were the first inspected; and as there is somewhat of an advantage in being inspected last, Col. Egan thought it but fair to reverse the order this year, and ordered the left half battalion—Co's. 4, 5 and 6—to be the first to face the D. A. G., and last night the companies consisted of:

- No. 4—Capt. C. W. Gunning.
- " 5— " S. J. R. Sircom.
- " 6— " J. T. Twining.

While all the companies mustering strongly, No. 5 excelled in that regard, there being 43 of all ranks present.

Lieut.-Col. T. J. Egan was in command,

and the inspecting officers, Lieut.-Col. J. D. Irving, D.A.G. for District No. 9, and Major F. Oxley, H.G.A. (who acted as A.D.C.) arrived shortly after 8 o'clock. After being received with a general salute, the work of inspection began at once, starting with No. 4 Co. The clothing and accoutrements were first minutely inspected, after which the company was exercised in squad drill, bayonet exercise forming columns of half companies and sections, physical drill, skirmishing (by signals), etc. After No. 4 had concluded, Nos. 5 and 6 were inspected, and, while the movements were somewhat similar to those of No. 4, there was variation enough to test both officers and men.

The inspection was completed on Wednesday.

The companies on parade were commanded as below:

- No. 1—Capt. T. C. James.
- No. 2—Capt. H. Hechler.
- No. 3—Lieut. L. Dixon.

The three companies turned out strongly, but No. 1 excelled with 44 of all ranks.

Col. Irving, D.A.G., who was again accompanied by Major Oxley, H.G.A., arrived shortly after 8 o'clock, when the inspection began with No. 1 Co., followed by Nos. 2 and 3. The movements were in the same line as those of Monday evening, and as foreshadowed in our issue of Tuesday the three companies made their usual good showing, going through the different evolutions in a manner that showed both officers and men to be quite familiar with the new drill. While all the companies appeared well balanced, it was the opinion of many that No. 2 (Capt. Hechler's) did the best in bayonet exercise and physical drill.—*Halifax Herald*.

15 officers are attending the Military School, conducted by Major Mellor and the staff of the King's Regiment. They belong to the following battalions:

- One from Halifax Garrison Artillery.
- Six from 66th Regiment, P. L. Fusiliers.
- Two from 63rd Battalion Rifles.

The others belong to outside regiments.

The Blake and Buzzard left for Bermuda at 2 o'clock on Nov. 7th. The whole squadron, consisting of the Blake, Magicienne, Tourmaline, Partridge, Pelican, Tartar, Mohawk, Canada, Buzzard and Cleopatra, will meet at Bermuda, and leave there December 27th on a West India cruise, arriving at Bermuda again on the 2nd of March. The Pelican will leave here Thursday, and the Magicienne on the 10th of December.

The Japanese are reported as meeting with little opposition from the populace in their invasion of Manchuria. The Chinese court and Government are vacating Peking in great alarm.

A private of the Thirteenth Battalion Hamilton, Ont., was fined on Saturday ten dollars for failing to attend drill.

THE NANA EXPEDITION.

Interviews With Blue-Jackets.

Joseph Herbert Perkins, leading stoker, from the *Alecto*, and Thomas Molyneux, seaman, from the *Phæbe*, who were wounded in the operations against the chief, Nana, in the Brohemic Creek, Niger Protectorate, and were invalided home, arrived at Liverpool on the 18th inst., by the African steamship *Benin*. Mr. Walter Pym, assistant paymaster of the *Alecto*, who has come home on the expiration of his time, was also a passenger by the *Benin*.

The blue-jackets were interviewed by a Liverpool Press representative, who has published the following graphic account of what transpired:—

"When we started that morning to go up the Brohemic Creek," said Perkins, "I knew some rough work was expected. For five days I had not had my clothes off. We were running up and down the rivers and creeks with the launch after the enemy's canoes, and many of them we captured. I was the leading stoker of the *Alecto*, and that morning the protecting shields were put round the launch and the gun before starting, showing that something unusual was expected. The gun was a two-barrelled Nordenfelt. There were nine of us in the launch, and all were armed. I had my cutlass and revolver, and some had their rifles, and our duty was to reconnoitre the enemy's position. 'Not a word is to be spoken,' was the order given by Captain Heugh, our commander, as we entered the creek. The engines were going slow so that the enemy would not hear our approach. The silence of the journey will never be forgotten. The creek narrowed until the trees on each side almost met. Everything was as still as the grave. A short distance up we found a canoe placed across the stream to block the passage, and also to allow the natives to cross from one side to the other. The bush on each side was dense, and as the creek became too narrow further up to turn our launch we turned here, going up stern first and dead slow. The propeller faintly striking the water was the only sound we heard, and we each looked at the other and only spoke by motions. We moved the canoe to the side and passed slowly up, keeping a sharp look-out on either bank. We saw nothing of the enemy, but suddenly rang out the 'bang, bang, bang' of heavy guns, and these and the shouts of the natives told us we were right under the enemy's fortress. The launch was turned end on, but the shots came flying about us with fearful rapidity. One of the first shots struck the Nordenfelt gun and disabled it. The steersman was knocked over, and our captain bravely took his place at the helm in the thick of the fire. The shots simply rained on us.

"Let me give them a rocket, sir," said the drill-instructor who was with us, and an instant later one of these was playing havoc amongst the enemy. To admit of this being fired our captain had

to crouch down, and the rocket shot a few inches over his head, and went so near me that the smoke rushed into my face.

"It was a moment of intense excitement; the majority of us were lying at the bottom of the launch wounded; a cannon ball had struck my right foot, but I dare not leave my post. I was ordered to drive ahead full speed. I tried the engines and found them intact. This was a blessing—a Godsend. Had anything happened to those engines, not a man would have been left alive to tell the tale. I called out to my mate Lambkin to give me something to bind my foot up, and he gave me his belt, but this was too hard. 'I have nothing else, Joe,' he said; 'but here, take my flannel,' and off went his flannel singlet.' I then bethought myself of my sweat rag and tied that round, and over this Lambkin wrapped his singlet. The brave fellow had then only his trousers on. I usually sat on the exhaust chest to drive the engines, with a cushion under me, but now I took the cushion to rest my foot on, and sat down on the hot exhaust chest itself.

"For God's sake, Perkins, go ahead!" came from Captain Heugh, who had himself been wounded now. The launch was travelling as fast as I could make her go.

"Open her out or we'll all be killed," he shouted out again.

"I cannot go any faster, sir; she is opened out as much as possible," I replied.

"Up to this time Captain Heugh did not know I was moving, and my mate called out, 'His foot's shot off, sir.' We sped down the creek with the cannon balls and other shots ringing after us. Then, too, we saw for the first time that the enemy were on each side of us. We now had to slacken down, as the canoe had been replaced across the stream, and to run into it might be meant the sinking of our launch. Our craft was struck several times, and was gradually sinking under us—indeed, the engines were working with the water half-way up them, and at every revolution they threw the water in all directions. Our gallant captain still stuck to his post at the tiller, and my mate, Lambkin, half-naked, with chief gunner's mate Crouch, were having a regular duel with the fort. Both men were firing from the side of the launch as she sped on. It was a fearful journey. Poor Jury was lying in the bottom of the boat calling out for water. He had been struck on the back with a cannon ball, and was on the point of death. Another of my comrades was calling out, 'Go on, Joe.' All was excitement. Major Crawford, with a broken shin, most cheerfully bade the men bear up, as the *Alecto* was near. Captain Lalor, too, with a fearful wound in his leg, cheered us all he could. The firing still continued on both sides, and the good little launch did her work well. In the excitement I forgot I was wounded, but when I got along-

side our ship and the work was over, I felt faint. Comrades bore me to the *Alecto's* deck and revived me with a little brandy. It was a most providential escape all through, for no sooner had we all left the launch than she filled, and would have sank but for being held by the falls from the davits. It is at times like these when true nature comes to the front. Major Crawford and Captain Lalor, although badly wounded, said, 'The sailors first, and so it was that we got our wounds attended to before them. Poor Jury just lived to reach his vessel, and Captain Lalor, who had his leg amputated, never regained consciousness, and died. Major Crawford, while in the launch, took off his trousers and bound the upper part of his leg up tightly. This stopped him losing too much blood and saved his life. After getting on the *Alecto* I lost my senses, and when I came to next morning I was in the hospital, lying beside the wounded men who had survived. I cannot say too much for the bravery and kindness of our captain and all in the boat. My mate Lambkin was promoted to my post, and well he deserved it. Believe me, sir, while I was at those engines urging the little craft on I never felt my injury. It must have been the excitement and the knowledge that the lives of us all depended upon those engines that made me forget my hurt."

"You'll get the Victoria Cross," said the reporter.

"Oh, no, sir, that ain't for such as me; I'm only a blue-jacket. Besides, what else could I do? It's at times like them that we must pull ourselves together, whether wounded or not, and help others."

The interview took place as Perkins on his crutches was waiting for the train to start for London. He was on his way to Chatham to go into the hospital there. It was sad to see, writes the reporter, such a fine young fellow maimed for life. He is only twenty-eight years of age, and was married but last January, and he is now in hopes of being furnished with a cork foot by which to walk. He was coming on splendidly when the treacherous African fever struck him down, and when seen at the railway station on Friday last week he still bore traces of the prostrating malady.

Molyneux formed one of the party of about 250 men who went to avenge the attack on the *Alecto's* launch. The men were from the *Phæbe*, *Alecto*, and the newly formed native troops. The strangest part of Molyneux's case is that he has at present a bullet "rattling about," he says, "some where near to or in one of my lungs." He is reputed by the doctors to have had the narrowest "squeak" possible with his life. He left Liverpool on the Friday for Plymouth.

"There were twenty-eight guns in the stockade that fired on the launch," said Molyneux. "We took this, captured, dismantled, and spiked the guns, and then marched on to Nana's town."

"You took a portion of Nana's town

that day. Why didn't you take the remainder," queried the reporter.

"Because we got too hot a reception."

"How did the native troops behave?"

"They were no use at all. We tried to get them in front, and their white officers led them gallantly by the back 'cut' when the fire was opened from the town, and got behind us. It was one of them that shot me from behind. After we took the part of Nana's town our black troops came up. We had then entered the houses, which were built mostly of grass and wicker, and we were searching for the enemy when the black troops fired in on us. It was marvellous there were not more killed or wounded. One of the black troops was shot through the head and killed on the spot by one of his own men. The march up was the worst I ever experienced. One minute you would be on hard soil, and the next step would land you in a marsh up to your waist."

Molyneux, like Perkins, spoke of the officers in the highest manner. Their thought and care of the wounded blue-jackets was something to admire and to arouse a feeling of pride in following such leaders.

A British Volunteer Fleet.

The report gains ground that the Admiralty have decided to make a serious effort to practically employ a considerable section of the officers and men of the Royal Naval Reserve. Some of the details of this scheme have already leaked out, and although the arrangements are not complete, there can be no doubt, we believe, that we are about to take a leaf out of the Russian book and start a British Volunteer fleet. Already something has been done in this direction, but hitherto the Admiralty have been content to secure the services of certain fine steamships of the Mercantile Marine, without making special provision for crews to man them in time of emergency. The Admiralty now pay a subsidy which entitles the country to the use of eleven fine vessels in case of need. These ships are as under:—Etruria and Umbria, of the Cunard Line; Himalaya, Australia, Victoria and Arcadia, of the P. and O. Line; Teutonic and Majestic, White Star Line; Empress of India, Empress of China and Empress of Japan, of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. In addition to these there are ten other ships of the P. and O., three of the White Star, and two of the Cunard Line for which special but less complete arrangements are to be made, but the precise details have not yet become public property. It is announced, however, and on good authority, that arrangements have already been thought out for manning the eleven ships mentioned above from the Royal Naval Reserve. The matter is not finally settled, as some points have to be submitted to the Board of Trade and the shipping companies. We have little doubt, however, that the ship-owners and shipping companies will be ready to lend their aid in putting the proposed volunteer fleet upon a firm

basis, even though some inconvenience may thus be caused to trade in the earlier stages. The Admiralty scheme is to man all these eleven steamships, and possibly the whole twenty-six, with officers and men of the Royal Naval Reserve. It is believed that special advantages will have to be offered to the crews to compensate for the sterner discipline likely to be enforced. The country is not likely to quibble about the expenditure of a few thousand pounds, more or less, provided the Admiralty scheme can be successfully carried out, and naval men will be unanimous in considering that their lordships have formulated a good scheme. It will be no small thing if we can ensure the manning of twenty-six fine steamers with reserve men exclusively, whilst it should also be beneficial to most of the shipping companies. The P. and O. ships, for example, are now chiefly manned by Lascars, and these men, though well enough in fine weather, are proverbially untrustworthy in times of emergency. We have little doubt that the company would increase its popularity with the travelling public if its ships were entirely manned by trained reserve men. The same reasoning applies to other shipping lines, the vessels of which are generally manned by a considerable proportion of foreigners. As a matter of course the respectable and well trained men of the Royal Naval Reserve will expect much higher wages than Lascars, and it is here that the Admiralty are likely to be confronted with the chief, and, indeed, the only serious difficulty in the way of their scheme. As regards the officers, we are not at all sure that any special inducements will be needed to secure their services. The Royal Naval Reserve officers already receive a substantial retaining fee, and we should think that the only further inducement needed would be some guarantee of regular and constant employment. Even, however, if the retaining fee has to be increased there should be no difficulty in obtaining a larger grant from Parliament in aid of the Royal Naval Reserve. As for the men, they, of course, will expect higher pay if they are to be subjected to stricter discipline and regular drills, but the present cost of the Royal Naval Reserve is so small that this is not likely to be regarded as a serious difficulty. The details of the scheme are awaited with considerable interest.

The German Navy.

Since the year 1889 the German Government has launched a number of small ironclads of a class which is unrepresented in the British Navy, and which, says the *Times*, appears to deserve more attention than it has hitherto received in this country. The first of the series, the *Siegfried*, was launched from the Germania Yard at Kiel in 1889; the next, the *Beowulf* (late commanded by Prince Henry of Prussia) and the *Frithjof*, were launched from the Weser Yard at Bremen in 1890 and 1891 respectively; the fourth, the *Heimdall*, was launched from the Imperial Yard at Wilhelmshaven in 1892; the fifth and sixth, named *Hildebrand* and *Hagen*, were launched from the Imperial Yard at Kiel in 1892 and 1893 respectively; and the seventh and eighth, known provisionally as the T and V, are now ready for launching, the former at Kiel and the latter at the latter at the Imperial Yard at Dantzic, a yard which, by the way, has never before built an ironclad and has hitherto undertaken

only wooden or composite vessels. The ironclads of this class were originally designed as coast defence-ships, and were more expressly destined for the protection of the two ends of the North Sea and Baltic Canal; but they have proved more suited for service as small battle-ships than for coast-defence work, and their sea-keeping and fighting qualities are now considered so good that they are now classed as fourth-class battle-ships. During the recent manœuvres some of them formed the fourth division of the Evolutionary Fleet, and the captains' reports spoke most highly of all of them. The eight ships resemble one another very closely, though the latter ones embody certain improvements which the earlier ones lack. For instance, those of more recent construction have nickel-steel armor, and the T has water-tube instead of locomotive or cylindrical boilers. All are remarkable for the very small amount of wood that has been employed in their construction; and this fact, in the light of the great number of fires caused by bursting shells in both Japanese and Chinese ships during the recent action off the Korean coast, shows the prescience of the German Admiralty. Indeed, in the latest ships of the series there is hardly any wood at all. They are also steam-heated throughout. These little ironclads are 239 feet 6 inches long, 49 ft. 3 in. broad, and, at a displacement of 3,500 tons, draw 17 ft. 9 in. of water. The engines, driving twin-screws, are of 4,800 indicated horse power, and give a speed of between 15 and 16 knots. The armor consists of a complete all-round belt 7 feet 6 inches broad and 9 1/4 inch thick, of two covered barbettes of 8 inch steel, of a 1 3/4-inch steel deck, covering engines, boilers, torpedo rooms, and magazines, and of steel shields for all guns. The armament consists in each case of two 9 1/4-inch long Krupp breech-loading guns in the forward barrette, of one similar gun in the aft barrette, and of six 3 1/4-inch Krupp quick-firing guns, disposed three on each broadside. There are, besides, four torpedo ejectors, one being forward, one aft, and one on each beam. Two tubes are submerged. The torpedo armament of each ship has cost £27,800, and the gun armament £76,500; and the mean total cost per vessel is £322,800. Steam-heating and electric-lighting arrangements are fitted in all, and each craft has two very powerful search-lights. The *Siegfried*, *Beowulf*, *Frithjof*, *Heimdall* and *Hildebrand* are already attached to the North Sea Fleet, and the *Hagen* forms part of the Baltic Fleet, to which the T and V will be added as soon as they are completed. It is probable that at least one more ship of the class, to be provisionally known as the W, will presently be laid down, although no definite provision for it has yet been made. Of ironclads of a larger class—namely, of 10,040 tons displacement—Germany has launched since 1890 the *Brandenburg*, *Kurfurst*, *Friedrich*, *Wilhelm*, and *Weissemburg* at Wilhelmshaven, and the *Worth* at Kiel—four sister ships. A fifth vessel of a similar type is about to be laid down at Kiel.

Private Thomas Brown, was born in London town

And 'listed in the Fifth one day.

A pull a thing about, and turn it inside out,

Always was his pleasant little way.

Whilst firing on the range, he thought it rather strange,

His gun refused to act.

To find the reason why, Private Brown applied his eye to the muzzle—and he found it, that's the fact!

And the verdict was—

Raw recruit—Hang-fire round—

Inquiring mind—Underground—

The Fire-Disciplined Pell-Mell

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

SIR,—There have recently appeared some references to the fire-disciplined pell-mell firing-line, opposing its practice, which show a complete misconception as to what its advocates are aiming at. As the fact that the fire-discipline of the masses (*i.e.*, the fire-disciplined pell-mell), still practically ignored, may be due to such misconceptions, I trust that you will be able to afford me space in your columns to try to remove the most noticeable of them. These misconceptions appear to arise from the fact that those who make them do not consider at what stage of the infantry fight a pell-mell will probably occur, nor how it is proposed to manage such a pell-mell when it does occur. To begin with, it appears to be thought by some that the practice of the fire-disciplined pell-mell means the legalization of disorder, is antagonistic to the axiom that the fire-units should be kept distinct as long as possible, and is therefore contrary to the Regulations. This is, however, quite a false view of the matter. No advocate for the practice of the fire-disciplined pell-mell ever dreamed of legalising disorder, or of denying that the fire units must be kept distinct as long as possible, nor does it in any way run counter to the Regulations, but, on the contrary, carries them out to their logical conclusion. Yet the opponents of the pell-mell quote the axiom that fire-units must be kept intact as long as possible, as if, in so doing, they settled the whole question of the close fire-fight, whereas really they have not reached the period when the fire-disciplined pell-mell comes into play at all. Everyone admits that fire-units must be kept intact as long as possible; that is not disputed by anyone, and goes without saying. The question at issue is, what about the time when the "as long as possible" has been reached, and the "no longer possible" stares us in the face? Are we to go no further than the beginning of the thing, the advance into the close fire-fight, whilst still the "as long as possible" lasts, and ignore that more difficult period when the "no longer possible" arrives? Or, are we to experimentalise in the latter period for the first time in battle? Such experiments would probably be rather costly. The practice of the fire-disciplined pell-mell therefore is not in any way antagonistic to keeping the fire-units distinct as long as possible, but merely comes into play when it is no longer possible; when during the hours-long infantry fight successive lines coming up from the rear on a limited frontage, either to maintain or carry forward the struggle, are forced to mingle with those already in the firing line and a pell-mell ensues, men of different regiments, brigades, and even perhaps of different divisions, fighting shoulder to shoulder. He must be a bold man who will assert that this "no longer possible" stage will not often arrive in battle again, as in 1870; as at Spicheron in the Gifert Wald; as at Woerth in the frontal attacks of the Fifth Corps, or the infantry of the Eleventh Corps, or in the mixture of Prussians and Bavarians; as at Colombes-Nouilly on the western slopes on the Colombes brook; as at Vionville on the edge of the Bois St. Arnoul, or where the second Batn. 20th Regiment and the 5th and 8th Companies 91st Regiment advanced into the long firing-line of the exhausted 24th, or in the Tronville copse; as at Gravelotte on the edge of the Bois de Genivaux and about St. Hubert; as at Sedan with the Bavarians at Bazailles, or the Bavarians and Saxons at Monvillier Park and La Moncelle, or the infantry of

the Eleventh Corps in the advance from Floing to Gazal. It is at this stage, when the fighting has long been going on, and at this stage only, that the practice of the fire-disciplined pell-mell endeavors to provide a means of at once remedying the confusion, of forming new units out of the mixture of the old ones, and of still controlling the fire after volleys have become impossible owing to the noise and wild excitement. The Infantry Drill lays down (pages 124-7) that units are to be kept intact as long as possible; it also looks further ahead and says (pages 100-4), "it may be expected that the stress of battle will have brought about in certain portions of the field a mixture of companies, battalions, and even brigades, rendering the work of command more and more difficult." If such a mixture of units, such a pell-mell, according to the Infantry Drill, "may be expected," then it is surely only common sense to bestow some attention on the management and control of such an "expected" pell-mell. It cannot therefore be urged that the practice of the fire-disciplined pell-mell is in any way contrary to the Regulations. On the contrary, its practice appears to be part of "the important duty of the efficient preparation of infantry for the practical requirements of the battlefield" laid down in the Army Order which prefaces the Infantry Drill. The fire-disciplined pell-mell is essentially the fire-discipline of masses, such as must be concentrated opposite the decisive points, and such as the Infantry Drill lays down (page 115) are to be so concentrated; when the successive lines come into action on a limited frontage, to maintain, or restore, or carry on the struggle, or to drive back counter-attacks, or to gradually accumulate sufficient fire-power to break down the enemy's resistance. It has little to do with the practice of battalion attacks, except that it requires the men to be sometimes practiced in forming new units out of a mixture of old ones and in controlled mass-fire. But it has everything to do with a divisional attack where masses are concerned, as will be at once seen if it be assumed that a powerful counter-attack has driven the first line back upon the second; or has forced the leading echelons of the second line to advance into the first line to enable the latter to maintain its ground, as happened in 1870 not unfrequently; or if it be assumed that the enemy's fire-resistance is as strong as at Gravelotte, at the Quarries and Point du Jour, and the second line has to reinforce with echelon after echelon and cannot as yet, for an hour or hours, carry the position. It is here that the fire-disciplined pell-mell will come into play, rapidly changing disorder into order again, and reasserting command and control of fire. Those who advocate its practice, far from being the advocates of confusion, wish to provide a means of conquering confusion whenever it appears, for which the practice of fire-disciplined pell-mell provides a simple remedy, easy to understand and easy to work; and it is in its simplicity that its chance of being successfully employed in the heat and din of battle lies. It has been argued that because the Germans won their battles in 1870, despite the confusion into which they fell, that we can do the same, and, therefore, need not bother our heads about how to conquer confusion as it will be all right. But those who argue thus forget that the nations have not stood still since 1870, and that fire-discipline is a different thing now to what it was then. Would they, or would any troops, fighting in confusion, win again if pitted against troops trained, directly confusion appears, to at once overcome it and form into new units of command, and to deliver, not a wild, rolling, independent

fire, but a steady, controlled, mass-fire, varying in direction and intensity according to the target? The answer does not seem far to seek.

In conclusion, it may be observed that those who advocate the practice of the fire-disciplined pell-mell uphold above all things order and discipline in the attack, that they completely admit the advantage of keeping units distinct as long as possible, and that it is only after the advance into the close fire-fight, when by the long duration and excitement of the fight, and by the fact that many leaders are down, and the orders of those who remain can with difficulty be heard except by a few men close by; when by the action of successive lines coming up on a limited frontage and units are at length perforce mixed up, then, and then only, does their system come into play. It does not pretend in any way to be a system of attack, but merely claims that in a protracted struggle, as successive lines come into action, it must be the last formation of any form of attack, and that therefore it should not be neglected. It is to be hoped that the misconceptions as to its purpose which have so long hindered the recognition and practice of the fire-disciplined pell-mell as a last fighting formation will gradually disappear. To that end let us not only fix our attention on page 124 of the Infantry Drill, but also consider pages 100 and 115. Let us cease to think that the last word has been said about fire-discipline when the axiom has been produced that fire-units must be kept distinct as long as possible, and instead let us give some general attention to the question of what is to be done in a protracted fight when the "no longer possible" stage is reached, and confusion requires a remedy and a prompt one. What we require is that whenever unavoidable confusion and mixture of units shall occur, we may be able to at once evolve, with the ease and rapidity of custom, order out of disorder, and may be able to prevent a wild, rolling, rapid, independent fire breaking out all along the line by resorting to a steady, controlled mass-fire, slow, rapid, or magazine according to the target, which by custom the men fall into.

Taking into consideration pages 100 and 115 of the Infantry Drill, it appears that the logical outcome of the distribution of our troops in three lines, with the second line massed in several successive lines opposite the important point or points (given an enemy on the offensive-defensive striking back with powerful counter-attacks) is the practice of the fire-disciplined pell-mell as a last battle formation. Intact units and volleys "as long as possible," by all means, but let us also be prepared for the "no longer possible," so that when it suddenly appears in battle amidst the deafening roar and confusion of the close fire-fight, we may have something to fall back upon that we know and have learnt how to work.

STEWART MURRAY,
Lieut. 1st Gordon Highlanders.
—*The Army and Navy Gazette.*

Not In a Hurry to Get There.

Lord Wolseley, one day lately, when in Cork, was accosted by a poor beggar woman, who asked him for a trifle. The new field marshal, putting his hand in his pocket, drew out a shilling, which he gave to the woman, who, overcome by his generosity, exclaimed, "May all the saints bless you, kind sir; may you be in Heaven this very night." "Thank you for your kind wishes," replied Lord Wolseley, "but you need not be so particular about the time."

A New Submarine Vessel.

Great interest is attached to the trials to be shortly made by the United States Navy authorities with a submarine torpedo-boat constructed by the John P. Holland Torpedo-boat Company. It is a cigar-shaped vessel, with sharp bow and stern, the shell being proportioned to stand the hydrostatic pressure due to the craft being 70 feet below the surface level. The boat is 80 feet long and 11 feet in diameter at the centre. The motive power is twin-quadruple expansion engines of 1,000 horse-power, driving twin screws, and working with an economy of about 18 lb. of steam per indicated horse-power. The speed of the vessel when driven by the engines will be 16 knots on the surface and 15 knots when submerged to a depth at which only a small area of the upper part of the hull is exposed, and 8 knots when running under water driven by electricity from storage batteries. The vessel carries a coal supply for a fifteen hour run on the surface, and electric storage capacity for sixteen hours' run entirely submerged. The submerging is accomplished by opening valves, which permit the air in certain ballast chambers to escape and the water to enter, the blowers being stopped, and the fireproof doors to the ashpit and furnace being closed. The telescopic funnel is lowered and the apertures covered by air-tight doors. The craft, being air-tight and water-tight, is directed downwards by deflecting horizontal plane rudders at the stern. When the desired depth is reached these rudders are stopped, and by clever contrivances maintained truly horizontal. The propellers are run by the engines until the steam in the boiler is exhausted, and then electric motors are used for propulsion. When lying submerged a pipe can be raised to the surface to draw fresh air with the assistance of an electric fan, while the vitiated air can be forced out by an air pump; but ordinarily fresh air is supplied from compressed air reservoirs capable of storing ten hours' supply. Interesting details have been introduced to ensure that the vessel will not dive further than 70 feet, that she will while under water move in a straight course and altogether the details, determined in a Government competition, give promise of interesting tests.—United Service Gazette.

French Army Manœuvres.

From a spectacular point of view the French army manœuvres appear to have been somewhat disappointing. On three occasions only did the opposing infantry come into actual contact, and on two of these days the final assault was not made. A military correspondent of the Times tells us that the manœuvres were carried out according to a cut and dried programme, which was strictly adhered to in every detail. There were no opportunities for any tactical lessons, and nothing sensational was attempted. Indeed, the manœuvres seem to have been planned for the purpose of practis-

ing the staff thoroughly in all the branches of their special knowledge. The technical instruction afforded was no doubt valuable, but the operations did not permit of anything in the shape of tactical experiments. The marching discipline of the French army seems to have commanded the admiration of all spectators. After a march of fifty minutes there was a halt of ten minutes, and at the stroke of the hour the whole column moved on. The simple plan was understood by everybody, and it was carried out with remarkable order and regularity. Every fifty minutes the column enjoyed the luxury of a brief rest; there was no confusion or hesitation. At the end of a long march none of the men seemed to be footsore, and they are declared by some critics to be better able to endure a fatiguing march than the German soldiers. Cyclists were employed to keep up communication along the columns. The French have apparently fully recognised the value of wheelmen in carrying despatches. Each battalion and each staff, as well as the cavalry and artillery, have the services of a number of cyclists, who are employed solely as carriers of messages. Attention is drawn to the fact that "when the columns were actually confronted by hostile infantry and guns, and in some cases forced to deport, no advance guard, beyond a squadron of cavalry to scout and a battalion formed as advanced guard, was pushed forward." The inference is that the French have come to the conclusion that with quick-firing guns and smokeless powder the necessity for a large advance guard is passing away, and that general officers, "after providing for the immediate safety of their column, will prefer to keep the bulk of it under their hand, with a view to a more deliberate use of the force at their disposal than was formerly the custom." The subject is one which presents many points of interest, and certainly appears to commend itself to some military experts in this country.

The Oxen Were Tinned.

One day when we were at dinner on board H.M.S. Barracouta, the conversation turned on flotsam and jetsam, and our skipper remarked—"Talking about that, we had a queer experience coming round from Penzance. About two bells in the middle watch the lookout-man sang out that there was a man in the water swimming after the ship—" "Caught up with you pretty quick, I suppose," interjected one of the Barracoutas. Disregarding this insinuation against the Grasshopper's speed—the Grasshopper, I may tell you, is one Her Majesty's torpedo-catchers—the skipper continued—"Well, we slowed down, and then found it was an ox, and not a man at all. We hauled the beast on board, and, would you believe it, we picked up no less than seventy-two head of cattle that night. I fancy some cattle boat must have gone down thereabouts. Well, having got them all on board, we steamed into Falmouth, where we sold them for the benefit of the mess." There was silence for a while until someone remarked:—"I've been calculating the cubical contents of your ship, and find that on a liberal computation each ox had a trifle over two cubic feet of space. Now, an ox—" "I forgot," put in our skipper, "I forgot to mention that the oxen were tinned."—*English Illustrated Magazine.*

The Capture of Nana Town.

By the mail steamer which arrived in the Mersey on Tuesday we obtain full details of the fighting in the Bight of Benin, of which some particulars were previously telegraphed and published in our issue of Sept. 8. Capt. Sir Alfred Jephson, R. N., who, as we then stated, was making a tour of inspection through the Niger Coast Protectorate, returned home by this steamer, and has given an interesting account of the proceedings up to Sept. 4. and this account we are able to supplement from other sources.

As our readers are aware, the Chief Nana had for some time previous been buying munitions of war and otherwise preparing to resist the authority of the Protectorate. The acting administrator had, however, decided not to interfere with the chief until after a conference with the commander-in-chief on the station, but while awaiting Admiral Bedford's arrival Lieut. Commander J. G. Heugh, of the *Alecto*, with Capt. Lalor and Major Crawford, of the Protectorate forces on Aug. 25, went up the Brohemis Creek, on which Nana Town is situated, to reconnoitre the enemy's position. The steam pinnace had proceeded some distance up the creek when a heavy fire was opened on the boat from a masked battery, in a few minutes all the ten persons in the pinnace being more or less seriously wounded. The leading stoker and fireman were badly hurt, and the engines stopped, the pinnace being all the while exposed to the fire from the heavy guns. Capt. Heugh asked if there was anybody who understood the engines sufficiently to start them. As there was no one but the two wounded men, one of the poor fellows, with his foot hanging half off, dragged himself along to the engines, which he started. This act of gallantry preserved them from destruction, and they were soon alongside the *Alecto* and out of reach of the enemy's fire.

The *Alecto* steamed away at once to Benin, where the wounded men were placed in the Consulate, which was converted into a hospital. Jury, one of the seamen of the *Alecto*, was killed by the first fire. Another seaman had his arm amputated, and a third his leg. Capt. Lalor, who had a portion of his leg shot away, had also to undergo amputation of the injured limb. His death followed on Sept. 3, as already reported. Meanwhile, the *Phæbe* (Capt. Francis Powell) arrived, and on Aug. 29 a reconnaissance in force was made by her men and a number of native troops belonging to the protectorate. The waterway to Nana Town, which the natives deemed to be the only route, having been shown to be hazardous, it was determined to take another course. The British force, therefore, cut down about 500 yards of dense bush and trees, and so took the enemy in flank. The task was carried out so well and rapidly that a force of about 300 men was able to march through the cut-

ting and capture: what turged out to be a well-erected battery, containing 21 guns of various calibres. The guns that were not mounted were fixed with stakes driven into the ground.

The difficult nature of the operations, says Sir Alfred Jephson, can only be realised by those who took part in them. The cutting down of the bush was in itself a great work, but, besides this, there were numerous creeks to be crossed, and trees had to be felled and placed across them to provide the troops a passage. The ground, too, was one unbroken quagmire, and the difficulty of getting the guns over the morasses was stupendous. In sheer desperation, one of the bluejackets offered to carry a 7-pounder gun on his shoulder, and the self-imposed task he accomplished with a man on each side to prop him up. Planks had, however, to be laid down to prevent the brave fellow sinking into the morass.

The cutting a way through the bush had a considerable moral effect upon the natives, who, seeing their position turned by the flank movement, fled, leaving their defences in the hands of the British. The party pushed on to the creek for the purpose of demonstrating to the natives that the town could be carried. The troops, both seamen and soldiers, worked well in face of a heavy but badly-directed fire, the native Protectorate men, now for the first time under fire, behaving capitally, encouraged thereto by the excellent example shown them by the bluejackets, who led the advance and formed the rear guard in retiring. After spiking the guns in the battery the force retired to Benin.

The projectiles fired from the masked battery in Brohemie Creek, which caused the casualties in the *Alecto's* pinnace, were a species of canister shot composed of nails, bits of glass bottles, and other things of that nature encased in a hollow bamboo. The wounds in most cases were jagged and very painful, but the men bore up very well in their suffering. Sir Alfred Jephson said no praise was too great to accord to all who took part in the operations, and particularly to the bluejackets. The marches which the men had to make through the swampy country not only caused their feet to swell, but at times the prickly growths penetrated their boots and caused much pain. The spirits of the men throughout were excellent, and there were scarcely any cases of sickness.

By telegraph we learn that Admiral Bedford arrived at Benin on Sept. 18 in the *Philomel*, and two days later summoned Nana to surrender. As the chief refused, a new passage was successfully cut through the swamp, in spite of a brisk fire from the guns of the town. In this manner the position was turned, and on Sept. 25 the place was stormed and taken without loss to the British force, which was composed of bluejackets and Protectorate troops. Nana fled, and has not yet been captured. Large quantities of ammunition and stores were seized in his town, including 75 cannon,

smooth-bores, and 1,500 barrels of gunpowder, besides other ammunition and general materials.—*The Army and Navy Gazette*.

The Lyman Sights.

In drawing the attention of our readers to the advertisement of these sights, which appears in our advertising pages, we think the following will be of interest to them:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SHOOTING TIMES.

SIR,—With reference to your article upon the Lyman sights, which appeared in the SHOOTING TIMES of the 15th inst., I beg to add the following remarks, the results of my own experience with them, in target and small game shooting, during the past six years. They may perhaps be of service to some of your readers who feel inclined to try the sights. Those who have tested them have formed their own opinions about them, which are usually decidedly favorable.

The sight shewn in figure 1 is the best pattern for sporting purposes, and is adapted to rifles with stocks considerably bent, like those made in America, but it allows of more elevation than is necessary for British sporting rifles, except perhaps, in South Africa, where sportsmen are stated to fire at game up to 500 yards distance. For express and other rifles intended for use at game within 200 yards, there is another sight of exactly the same pattern but shorter in the stem.

There is also an aperture sight very similar to these, and fitted with a wind-gauge. It is good for target work up to about 500 yards, and for sport on open plains. The base is shaped so as to give a very firm grip for the hand, but the stem, being rigid, is more likely to catch in twigs than the first mentioned pattern. It is therefore not so good for shooting in thick bush. I doubt if a wind-gauge be of any practical use in killing game. A hunter will do better by deciding at once about the force of the wind, and allowing for it by the position in which the foresight is held, rather than by losing time in altering a wind-gauge.

The small aperture of these sights should be used for target shooting only.

For sporting purposes the large hole is far preferable, because it gives more light, and allows a distinct view of an animal the size of a deer, and also of the surrounding ground or bushes. The field of vision is indeed so wide, that anyone unaccustomed to the sight would be likely to conclude that it could not ensure an accurate aim. I once thought so, but found that, when firing from a rest at a thin perpendicular line 25 yards distant, I could not make the bullets strike more than half-an-inch to right or left of the line, although holding so that the foresight appeared to be almost touching the *side* of the rear aperture. This was with a barrel only 24 inches in length, and of course with a longer barrel, the deviation would be less.

Strange as the statement may seem to those who have not used these sights, the most certain way to ensure looking through the exact centre of the aperture is to refrain from trying to do so. If the whole attention be concentrated upon the foresight and the object aimed at, the eye naturally finds the centre, because the light is brighter there than in any other part of the circle.

No sportsmen are more likely to appreciate these sights than those whose eyes, owing to advancing age, are losing the power of adapting their focus to various distances. The haze on an open rear sight then becomes very annoying, and can be only partially remedied by moving the sight farther towards the muzzle. With the large aperture of the Lyman sight there is no haze, the foresight being seen with perfect clearness, and the distance between the two increasing the accuracy of aim.

Fig. 3 in your article shows what is probably the best of all open reasoning for sporting purposes. The ivory triangle catches the eye and so when a quick shot is required, and the sharp upper angle permits of very fine accuracy when there is time to aim carefully.

It may be asked, of what use is the other leaf with the V shaped notch? I know of only one position in which it is preferable—when standing in the dense shade of a thick wood, and aiming at an object in brilliant sunshine outside, the ivory cannot be distinguished from the dark part of the leaf, but the foresight can be distinctly seen in the angle of a broad V.

The foresight shown in Fig. 5 is obviously intended for target practice only. Of the other Lyman foresights there are two which are specially useful for game-shooting, viz., the "ivory head" and the "ivory hunting" patterns. The latter is the stronger, but the former is strong enough for ordinary rough work, and is, I think, likely to be preferred by British sportsmen.

There is another pattern suitable for those who like to combine a first-rate target and game sight in one. It is shaped much like the Beech sight, but is stronger. It has a covered steel-head, and an open, ivory-tipped column.

Yours truly,

J. J. MEYRICK.

Budleigh Salterton, September 18.

BALACLAVA—October 25, 1854.

I.

Wintry Crimean sky—
Dark landscape—distant roar
Of Black Sea waters, running high
Upon the shore!
Aron, like shadows in the lurid light,
The hosts of battle form—
Here, Western ranks—afar, the Muscovite,
Await the storm!

II.

Trumpet-call—fatal sound!
Thunder of cannonade!
And swift advancing o'er the trembling ground,
The Light Brigade.
Across the valley, as they come in sight,
A fiery rampart runs,
Where flash unceasingly, from left to right,
The Russian guns!

III.

Onwards they come—Dragoon,
And Lancer, and Hussar;
Confronting Death, on this October noon,
With wild hurrah!
Around them flaming cannon—in their front,
A soldier's grave, or glory and renown;
The deadly ordeal of the battle's brunt,
The Victor's Crown!

IV.

"Forward!" is Nolan's cry
On this, his final field:
Facing the foe as one who dares to die,
But scorns to yield.
On sweeps the overwhelming tide of War,
Resistless, sparing none;
And Balacava, famous evermore,
Is nobly won!

MAJOR A. ST. JOHN SEALLY.

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