

VOLUNTEER NOTES

(By RIFLEMAN.)

With a view to obtaining the difficulty of obtaining suitable and safe grounds for the holding of battle practice in connection with Easter manoeuvres, the Defence Department has approached the Department of Lands, asking that suitable areas be set apart for these purposes (says a Dussend writer).

The newly-formed Highland Rifles (Auckland) have fixed Tuesday for their weekly parade night. The first parade was attended by a good number of about forty men. The company is rapidly filling to its full strength.

It is proposed to hold in the four centres during the winter season signalling and engineering classes for officers and N.C.O.'s. It is intended that the classes shall last a month in each centre, and the suggested months are—July, Wellington; August, Auckland; September, Christchurch; October, Dunedin.

The prizes earned by members of the No. 8 Company, G.A.V., were presented on parade last week. The prize for highest marks for D.R.F., presented by the company, was won by Corp. Winks. Prize for the best Gunner, presented by Mr. J. E. Oliver (late gunner No. 3 Company), won by G. Golden. Prize for the best G pr. gunner, won by Gunner McCullough.

Mr. Solano, whose target has been recognised and adopted by the British War Office for future use in the Army, in a recent criticism of the bull's-eye target, stated that this form of shooting had been discarded by every military power in the world, and was only used by them for short recruit course. In fact, it was only useful for the purpose of the pot-shooter, for under no conditions of active warfare would a man be called upon to shoot at black against white—all would be of neutral colours.

Some of the Otago volunteers had a rather unpleasant experience during the recent manoeuvres. It was about 5 a.m. before the Red force was dismissed to its tents. This being a flying column, no straw was brought, and remembering their experiences at Goodwood last year half the men did not bring their waterproof sheets. The great black mass dissolved silently, and the ghostly canvas swallowed it in detail. Soon there arose from the tents a sound of lamentation, and behold the cavers had been pitched upon thistles. There were hosts of them in tall, spiked, vicious masses. There were as many as fifty and sixty to a tent, and each man, as he sank to rest, leapt up again with alacrity.

Those interested in artillery work in Auckland read with interest, mingled with surprise, the Prime Minister's announcement that the construction of new forts is being rapidly pushed on at Auckland and Wellington. In conversation with one who is well-versed in defence matters, I learned that the mounting of two Mark VII. 6in guns on North Head is proceeding, and possibly this is the fact on which the Premier's announcement is based. These guns are really fine weapons yet though they were imported about five years ago, and, at the present rate of progress, according to my informant, the mounting should be completed in from two to three years. The two guns are fitted with telescopic sights, have a range of 10,000yds, and can discharge six 100lb

shells to the minute, a rate of fire far higher than the six inchers at present in use at the forts.

The French engineers and scientists who are constantly leading the world in the production of new descriptions of lethal weapons, but which are seldom taken up by their army and navy with that zest and rapidity that might be expected, or, if taken up, persevered with until perfection is gained, are once more ahead of other countries in the development of a torpedo which can be controlled by means of Hertzian waves used in a "wireless" system. Such a system (says the "United Services Gazette"), if perfected, could not fail to have a far-reaching effect, for it would enable those in charge of shore defences, against the attack of a fleet, to hit back with even greater accuracy than could be done by means of submarines. Whitehead torpedoes controlled by means of a wireless system of electricity by operating from the white cliffs of Dover, for instance, would enable a few men to entirely command the straits, and prevent hostile warships passing through these narrow waters during daylight and in clear weather.

The Unchangeful Sex.

[The new fashion which is to follow the Directoire style demands a smaller and much lower waist above an ample skirt.]

And so the stern decree is uttered,
Phyllis!
No more in dainty sheath-like gowns arrayed,
Slender and graceful as the daffodil is,
Shall I behold your classic form displayed.
For you who own Dame Fashion's sway must tremble
At thought of meriting her slightest frown,
Even though she may bid you to resemble
A tulip upside down!

Your waist must show a notable compression,
And must be lowered in no small degree,
And, though I do not ask for a confession
Of how the feat is done, it puzzles me.
Youth, I am well aware, is most elastic,
But you, as fashion changes her design,
Seem to be quite miraculously plastic,
I would the gift were mine!

My tailor is a man of understanding,
And I have often seen him much distressed
On fuding that my figure was expanding,
For, oh, he loves to make me look my best.
But yet the fellow never pulls or pinches;
He can not mould me to his will, 'tis clear,
Only, when calling out my extra inches,
He drops a silent tear!

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LORD ROBERTS' ADVICE TAKEN BY THE NURSERY.

According to a "Tattler" artist, irate fathers and mothers are discussing the advisability of forming an association to suppress the movement so enthusiastically supported by Lord Roberts of encouraging the use of the rifle amongst the young, noted in a recent issue of "Life."

Laxo-Tonic

There is a young lady of Clyde,
Who says she is quite satisfied
Laxo-Tonic can cure
What all women endure,
For the pill only wants to be tried.

With folks on the outer Marcoo,
Who live upon beef and sausage,
The scabby 'd is chronic
Were not Laxo-Tonic
A part of the regimen too!

LAXO-TONIC PILLS. 109

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