POINT IN FORNEY'S FAVOR.

FOR THIRTY YEARS GOVERNMENT COAL HAS BEEN A PERQUISITE.

Testimony of Capt. Williams in the Trial of Col. Forney by Court Martial Brings Out a Precedent—That Furnace Coal.

The hearing of testimony in the Forney court martial was resumed at 10 o'clock yesterday morning at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Sergeant Matthew C. Kneip was recalled and identified a letter written to the Secretary of the Navy, dated March 3, 1893, which was then offered in evidence by the prosecution.

Counsel for the defence objected to the admission of the letter unless it was first proved that Col. Forney had either signed it or had ordered Kneip, at that time chief clerk, to write it. Kneip could not give any definite information on this point, and the court sustained the objection.

Private John Cassidy testified that he had carried coal from the Government shed to Col. Forney's hall. He said he had not remained to see it burned, but knew that the colonel had a private coal shed containing smaller coal, which witness thought was burned in the kitchen stove. Last spring, at the instigation of Lieut. Wood and Capt. Mercer, witness stopped carrying coal to Col. Forney's quarters.

Capt. Charles H. Williams testified that since 1893 Government coal had been burned by officers in the Centre House at Washington, and he named Col. McCandy, Majors Collier, Houston, and Hartlett, and Capts. Monroe and Baker as other officers who had followed the practice.

The Judge Advocate objected to this testimony as implicating other officers, but Congressman Bartlett replied that he merely wished to show a precedent established by custom, and did not care whether the department paid any further attention to it or not. The objection was not sustained, and the court then took a recess.

The afternoon session was devoted principally to arguments for and against admitting as evidence the ledger of Weed, Sice & Abraham. This had been offered in evidence on Saturday last, but the court had refused to admit it at that time, as no attempt had been made to find the bookkeeper who made the entries.

The Judge Advocate yesterday announced that the bookkeeper had been found in Jersey City, but he had positively refused to testify, and as the court martial has no jurisdiction over civilians he could not be compelled to do so.

Congressman Bartlett objected to the admission of the ledger, saying: "This ledger, as it is called, is a book of secondary entry, or transcript, and as such cannot be admitted. It is made up of entries taken from original slips of paper, which the Judge Advocate says have been destroyed, and is in no sense an original book of entry, which is always the best evidence. Furthermore, if there was reason for excluding it in scope, that reason is now supplanted by the knowledge that this bookkeeper is ready to testify as to the correctness and authenticity of the ledger, or record. It is in no sense an official record, but the private account of an individual, and should not be dragged before this court." The court sustained the objection.

The Judge Advocate then asked permission to call to the stand Mr. Ormsby, the stenographer of the court of inquiry, and to question him regarding any difference between the testimony given by witnesses before that tribunal and at the present trial. Congressman Bartlett objected, saying that to allow Ormsby to testify would be to demount to the admission of evidence of the court of inquiry. The objection was sustained, and the court adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock.

NAVAL NEWS AND NOTES.

Smoke-Consuming Furnaces—The Monitors—Naval Constructors in Fleets.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—Smokeless powders are to revolutionize the aspect of the battlefields of the future as compared with the battlefields of the past; and now a somewhat analogous transformation is to be undertaken for warships. The plan under consideration is that of using furnaces of the down draught type, by which it is hoped to procure nearly smokeless combustion.

The problem, as need hardly be said, is an old one. Smoke-consuming engines have long been desired and aimed at, not only in order to avoid the nuisance of smoke, but so as to get the benefit of any combustible elements in it. In the case of naval vessels there would be the added gain of preventing their presence from being so quickly known to an enemy. In the fishing sea patrol fleet the selection of coal is an important matter, because a poacher can see the smoke of a Government vessel far away, and perhaps can get warning enough thereby to make his escape.

One of the chief arguments for the use of petroleum as fuel on war ships, especially on torpedo boats, is the importance of doing away with smoke. But if the forthcoming experiments with coal in specially constructed furnaces shall prove successful, at least this argument for substituting oil will vanish, although others may remain. We shall also, no doubt, see the same system extended to other naval vessels, and in fact to coal-burning engines on land as well as on sea.

It is hoped that the plans now under consideration for immediate and radical alteration of monitors, resulting from the report made by the Board on the Amphitrite, will have the effect of removing objections to serving on these vessels. From their form of construction the monitors cannot afford as agreeable living accommodations at sea on long voyages in all conditions of the weather as some others. Accordingly, it seems hard to add any needless discomforts, such as those on the Amphitrite, where a temperature of from 130° to 160° in the fire room was found to be the result simply of the lack of adequate means of escape for overheated air. Fortunately it was ascertained that blowers and more of them, with more efficient air supply and exhaust pipes and a lengthening of the smokestack, could remove the trouble.

The additional suggestion of the Board that officers' quarters in the monitors should be made armored decks, and that all obstructions to the free exit of air from the engine structure should be removed, and that this space should be devoted to berthing the crew, will undoubtedly command serious consideration. With such an arrangement, large hatches protected by armored gratings could be cut into the deck over the engine and fire rooms, and ports could be opened in the sides of the superstructure. In this way one of the chief objections to the monitors, as vessels to be kept in commission, would be overcome.

The compromise resulted in regard to the employment of naval constructors on shipboard will have the advantage of allowing these officers to become acquainted with the practical workings of vessels in cruises, and then and there both in new designs and in alterations. It is not an experiment, being European nations having the practice well established. The provision just made in our service is that when an assistant naval constructor is detailed to a fleet he shall be attached to each of its vessels in succession, for such time as may be assigned to him by its commander and by the flag officer. He is to observe, among other things, the means of communication, the water-tight doors, ventilating apparatus, disposition of weights, coal bunkers, store rooms, quarters, the stability, rolling, pitching, turning power, and speed of the ship, the methods of stowing anchors and boats, the coal stowage, the steering gear, and so on. He is to make quarterly reports.

While it is evident that this officer will thus have much responsibility in various important duties, there are two special ways in which he may perform good service. One is that of inspecting foreign ships and the naval establishments of other countries, and another that of supervising affairs, under the direction of the Captain, when these are made in a foreign dockyard, such an officer might apparently have been of considerable use in the recent unfortunate grounding of the Columbia, although the Captain's responsibility will remain the same, even with such an additional assistance.

The squadron of Admiral Bunce, which proceeded from Newport to Bar Harbor, Boston, Provincetown, Fisher's Island, and other points, before the arrival off Staten Island, going through Bedloe's Gulf and Narrows during its cruising along the coast, will have its next point of call at Hampton Roads. But during this week and a part of all of the next the five ships are expected to be at sea, going through squadron evolutions. It would be an advantage if two or three more vessels could join them at Hampton Roads, so that the exercises might be repeated on a still larger scale.

That part of the programme of the squadron which contemplated taking out the War College class in order to be of service to the latter in solving tactical problems, seems to have utterly fallen through. The combination of the squadron in evolutions with the summer work of the institution, on Coaster's Harbor Island will have to be left for another and more convenient season. But undoubtedly Admiral Bunce's squadron has done good work in trying the revised drill book. The various manœuvres there prescribed have been executed over and over again, and a number of officers, in addition to those who have been appointed to the task of revision, are observing and studying the evolutions in order to see where improvements are possible. This will be one good result coming from the season of fleet drills.

Before the movements of the squadron began, it was understood that the season would wind up about Nov. 1 at Hampton Roads, from which point the vessels would disperse to various points, but their condition and the needs of the public service will determine what will be done in the case.

It does not seem that seek the men are rare in this country, but the medical corps of the navy furnishes examiners to them, since that corps has a large number of vacancies, with no candidates waiting for them, and yet there are applicants for that service. The naval apothecaries are going to try to have Congress do something for them at the coming session. Their pay in now $60 per month, and they would like to have it increased and to have some advantages of rank.

The ingenious proposal to give the Naval Academy a separate appropriation bill would, if successful, be a great step toward providing liberally for that institution. The tendency would naturally be to make a bill big enough to justify employing a separate committee to consider it. Again, there is the analogy of the separate West Point appropriation bill. Still, it is acknowledged that similar action in other public matters would enormously increase the number of committees in Congress.

AFFAIRS OF THE ARMY.

Retirement of Col. Townsend—The Candidates for the Shoulder Straps.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—In days when resignations in the army and navy are sensations, and even voluntary retirements few and far between, the action of Col. E. F. Townsend, Twelfth Infantry, in taking advantage of the law that allows army officers to retire at the age of sixty-two, has naturally created talk. Some time ago he accepted a leave of absence from his regiment, and so much was made of his departure as to excite the belief that this was the mere prelude to an early retirement from the active list. Col. Townsend, who stands high on the list of regimental commanders, is an officer of well-known merit, as is indicated by the fact that he has been the Commandant of the Infantry and Cavalry School. A native of New York, he was appointed to the Military Academy from Wisconsin in 1850, and graduated in 1854, but resigned early in 1856. When the civil war broke out he returned to the army as a First Lieutenant in the Fourteenth Infantry, and remained in the regular service, not taking a volunteer commission. He received the brevets of Major for gallant and meritorious services at Shiloh, and of Lieutenant-Colonel for services in the Ordnance Department. He reached his present command nearly nine years ago. His retirement, it is understood, will date from about a month hence, anticipating his compulsory retirement for age, which would occur on his sixty-fourth birthday. Lieut.-Col. Andrews will succeed him.

Capt. Wells Willard becomes Commissary of Subsistence, with the rank of Major, in consequence of the death of Brevet Lieut.-Col. Penrose, who had been in the service over thirty years at the previous service in the Volunteers during the civil war.

It is rather a strange announcement that out of twenty-one enlisted men who are applicants for commissions at Fort Leavenworth only four came up to the requirements in regard to measurements following "chest expansion." Presumably, however, some proper arrangement will be made regarding this matter.

It now seems unlikely that troops will have to be called out on account of the arrest of Hollow Horn Bear and the affairs at Rosebud Agency. A careful watch, however, is kept, and perhaps now that the attention of those interested in the Indians has been called to the subject, steps may be taken to make the latter content with the wages paid them.

TESTS OF THE ARMY RIFLE.

Regular Soldiers Try the Weapon in Skirmish Tactics.

CHICAGO, Sept. 26.—The first of a series of tests of the utility of the Krag-Jorgensen rifle was made at Fort Sheridan yesterday. It is said that the new gun is not as rapid firing a weapon as the old Springfield rifle. To determine this point, the War Department has directed the commanding officer at Fort Sheridan to make a series of tests. Col. Crofton has detailed from each company ten of the best and most rapid marksmen, who will conduct the tests in accordance with the rules laid down for skirmish firing.

In the first of these tests yesterday the sharpshooters used the new rifle as a single fire weapon. A second test was made, the magazines being used. It was clearly demonstrated that more shots could be fired in a specified time by using the rifle as a single firearm than by using the magazine, as the time lost in refilling it could not be made up. From forty to ninety seconds were required to fire ten shots.

The main argument against the weapon is cumbersome, and not as easy to load when men are acting as skirmishers as the old rifle was.

A record of the test, when completed, will be forwarded to Washington, and will be submitted to a Board of officers now reviewing the results of the tests conducted recently at West Point by one of the companies of the Engineer Battalion especially detailed by the Secretary of War to test the accuracy of the rifle.

CHARGE AGAINST CAPT. KIRKMAN.

He Is Accused of Entering the Room of Capt. Barrett's Daughter.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Sept. 26.—The case of the plaintiff in the court martial of Capt. Kirkman, Tenth Infantry, was concluded yesterday, and to-day the defence begins. As the proceedings are held behind closed doors it is not possible to report the testimony. The case of Capt. Kirkman, however, is said to be more serious than was at first supposed. He is charged with entering the room of Mrs. Littell, wife of Lieut. Littell, who called to her father, Capt. Barrett, for help, and the latter ejected Capt. Kirkman. He is also accused of having entered the room of a servant.

It is said the defence will assert that Kirkman entered Mrs. Littell's room by mistake. Immediately after the trouble occurred Capt. Barrett had Capt. Kirkman arrested for burglary, and he is under bond to appear before the United States Court in December.

Army and Navy Orders.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—The following army and navy orders have been issued:

A board to consist of Col. Charles H. Alden, Assistant Surgeon-general; Lieut.-Col. William H. Forwood, Surgeon-general; Lieut.-Col. David L. Huntington, Deputy Surgeon-general; Major Charles Smart, Surgeon, and Major Walter Reed, surgeon, has been appointed to meet in New York city for the purpose of examining candidates for admission to the medical corps.

One of his sons, C. F. Schofield, aide-de-camp to Lieut.-Gen. Schofield, is granted four months' leave of absence, with the expiration of which time he will join the Second Cavalry.

Upon the expiration of their service upon the staff of Lieut.-Gen. Schofield, Lieut.-Col. Joseph P. Sanger, Military Secretary, Major and Inspector-generals, and Tasker H. Bliss, aide-de-camp, Captain and Commissary of Subsistence, will report in person to the Secretary of War for further orders.

Capt. William Crozier of the Ordnance Department, has been ordered to visit the works of the Cramp's at Philadelphia, for the purpose of inspecting the disappearing gun carriages now being built there.

Chief Engineer Magee is ordered before the Naval Retiring board at the Washington Navy Yard for examination, the President having declined to approve a previous recommendation for his retirement on account of heart disease.

Trials of the Katahdin and Texas.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—The official trial trip of the Ammen ram Katahdin, which was set down for Oct. 3, will be postponed for two weeks, owing to an accident. It was discovered when she was placed on the dock that her propeller blades were bent, and new ones will have to be substituted.

The steam trial of the battleship Texas will take place in a few days. A few alterations are necessary in her feed and air pumps. The mud that had settled and caked in her condensers has been successfully washed out, and there is now no obstacle to prevent her early trial.

The Monitor Ajax for New Jersey's Naval Militia.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—Secretary Herbert to-day approved the application of the Governor of New Jersey for the monitor Ajax for the use of the militia of his State. The monitor, which is in excellent condition, with a battery sufficient for practice purposes, will be turned over to the State at an early date.

Looked Like a Suicide Swallow.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

AURORA, Ind., Sept. 18.—Tuesday afternoon a sparrow was seen to fly toward the steeple of the German Reformed Church with a piece of string in its bill and light on the church spire. Its singular actions attracted the attention of a number of spectators, and finally it became apparent that the bird had succeeded in securing one end of the string to the point of the steeple and the other end about its neck. Then it hung and fluttered until death ensued. The peculiar conduct of the bird impressed the witnesses with the thought that it was a studied case of suicide, and not an accidental hanging. The bird continued to sway in the wind, and while a number of its companions frequently flew about the steeple, they seemed to shun the struggling bird, and manifested none of that uneasiness at its fate which is usually the case with sparrows when one of their number is in trouble. After it had ceased to struggle the prior birds uttered a few shrill cries and winged their way from that locality, as if to inform their mates of the death of their companion. Not a sparrow has appeared in that vicinity since.

What Puzzled Willie.

From Harper's Round Table.

Willie (who was travelling alone for the first time, to conductor)—What is the meaning of "W" and "R" on the sign posts along the road? Conductor—Ring and whistle.

Willie (after a pause)—I can see how "W" stands for wring, but I'm blessed if I can see how "R" can stand for whistle.

FLINT'S FINE FURNITURE. The extremely low prices for such excellent values make this the leading establishments in the city. Warerooms, 43 West 23d st.

TRY VIO-VIOLET A NEW LUNDBORG PERFUME

A true and lasting Violet in the handsomest package on the market.
PRICE, $1.75 PER BOTTLE.
For Sale by Dealers or will be sent on receipt of price by
LADD & COFFIN, 24 Barclay St., New York.

NATIONAL GUARD NOTES.

Col. George Moore Smith of the Sixty-ninth Regiment announces to the members of that organization that he assumes command in pursuance of recent orders from Brigade Headquarters, and desires to express his appreciation of the honor conferred upon him, and says: "Realizing the responsibilities he assumes, he relies upon the soldierly qualities of the officers and enlisted men of the regiment, and their cordial support of every measure promotive of its best interests; he believes that the commanding officer should be first in devotion to duty and loyalty to the colors, and undeviating in his purpose to enhance the reputation of the regiment, increase its esprit, and augment its numbers. In the restoration of its historic and honored designation every member and friend of the command joins in congratulations. Glorious memories cluster around the name of the Sixty-ninth Regiment. Its gallantry and brilliant achievements in the dead are recorded upon the pages of our country's history, and those who have charged its flag and followed its fortunes know that the organization has been preserved and that its existence and its usefulness will continue in the future. The occasion to one which should inspire all with that devotion to duty and that spirit of patriotism which enabled the Sixty-ninth Regiment in the time of the country's peril to make famous the soldiery characteristic of the Irish race in America. The commanding officer asks of the men who now wear its uniform to recruit the regiment to its maximum to spare no effort to promote its interests, to faithfully perform every military duty, and to united and harmonious action to advance it to a foremost position in the esteem and regard of the civic and military authorities, and of the people of the city and state. The commanding officer congratulates the command on the success of its recent tour of duty at the state camp and the results attained, he extends his thanks to the officers and men for their earnest attention to duty and for the discipline at all times maintained, and he commands the loyalty to the corps and the spirit of comradeship so frequently manifested."

Company drills will commence on Tuesday, Oct. 1, and continue weekly by each company, on its regularly appointed drill night, until further orders. The company drills during the early part of the season will be devoted to elementary instruction, particular attention being given to the schools of the soldier and of the company in ranks. The school of the company will follow, and the evolutions will be carefully instructed and executed in every movement in this school. The companies have been divided into squads, and all movements, from the school of the company, will be instructed in the movements of extended order, and in guard duty, including the duties and responsibilities of the individual sentinel, interior guard, relief and post, and the duties of commissioned officers, and privates. Lieut. Dowdney is detailed as the instructor of the regimental color guard. As the recruits are after proficiency, they will be grouped accordingly and placed in advanced classes. The instruction mentioned above will further develop the "esprit" of the regiment, and it is hoped that it will result in a "Second Company" of Sixth, "Guard Company" of Sixth, "Color Company" of Sixth, "Company Company" of Sixth, "Company Company" of Sixth, "Company