

been considerably increased, and upon this condition being reached the minister deemed that the effective military force of the republic had been increased fifty per cent.

This, of course, allayed any tendency to excitement, and we doubt not there were those beyond the Rhine who were disposed to laugh at themselves for permitting any other feeling than that of amusement at the minister's system of computation to take possession of them. And yet, as we look at it, the explanation makes the matter much more serious than if the original statement had been permitted to remain without qualification. An actual increase in the war footing of the French army from two million to three million men would mean that the greater part of the extra number were recruits of less experience and more immature conditions generally; while the lengthening out of the terms of men chosen for such work because of their fitness or experience—and the first figure is the full French strength of that class—means the equivalent in numbers and more than that in efficiency of a million new men.

In either case the situation is ominous enough. The world has never, since the day the Persian hordes were hurled against the handful of Spartans at Thermopylae, beheld any such army as the French nation could now put into the field in the twinkling of an eye, so to speak. And these are all disciplined more or less, capable of enduring hardships, thoroughly loyal to France and immovable in their determination to wipe out the series of disgraces which began at Woerth and culminated at Paris in 1871. De Freycinet's statement, therefore, in this light ceases to present any of the features of a *bon mot* and assumes those of a statement which is full of significance for all the powers of Europe.

Now that Boulanger is in perpetual exile and all his hopes are forever crushed, it might as well be said that much if not most of the credit for the present efficient and powerful military system of France is due to him. As Minister of War he effected a thorough reorganization of and infused a renewed morale into the army. It was his boast that within twenty-four hours after being called upon, even the most remote of the corps would be in the field fully equipped for protracted service and headed for the frontier. If he told the truth, and

it now seems that he did, France leads the world in preparation and ability to go to war on short notice.

WE LEAD ILLINOIS.

OTTAWA, Illinois, is rejoicing over having the first electric cars operated in that State. An informal opening took place on the 15th inst., and was celebrated with an excursion by prominent citizens. The announcement says the electric system means a great deal for that town, which has increased in population five hundred this year.

Utah thus seems to be ahead of Illinois and Salt Lake of Ottawa in the matter of this great improvement. Although the formal opening of our electric system did not take place till the 16th inst., the cars had been making experimental trips, with a few people on board on each occasion, for a week previous. The system will soon gridiron the entire city and supersede all other methods of cheap conveyance here.

STILL ANOTHER WEAPON.

A NEW repeating rifle, described as a "marvel of ingenuity," has been submitted to the Belgian government by a soldier with an inventive turn of mind known as Lieutenant Marva. He seems to have devoted considerable time and attention and has doubtless lost much sleep in his efforts to perfect a destroyer that would kill faster than anything else yet presented for public favor, and the chances are that he has succeeded. The gun is said to be a wonder in its way, being among other things very simple. It weighs only seven and a fourth pounds, and can be discharged accurately as often as forty times in sixty seconds, and we suppose at random it could be "turned loose" at the rate of at least one per second, by one who knows how to handle such weapons. Each of the cartridges carries thirty-two and a half grains of powder, and is so constructed that it cannot explode during the process of loading.

The announcement comes like so much surplusage that "doubtless the Belgian government will adopt the new weapon for the army." Of course it will. That is what the gun was made for. But it does not appear that Belgium will be made a first-class power, or even recognized as a power at all because of this addition to its munitions of war.

No doubt the Marga gun is all that is claimed for it, but that will only cause others to adopt it, especially if in a competitive examination it proves its superiority; but that will only cause the other nations to take hold of it the quicker, so Belgium would all at once be reduced to practically the same footing that she now occupies. She will have to learn, if she does not already know, that even if there were international patent rights, war would dissipate them with as slight compunction as it does human life.

THE UTAH WESTERN GOES.

It seems that the right of way will be secured by the Utah Western along Fourth West Street to Ninth North Street, in spite of the opposition that at one time appeared so formidable.

If the majority of the people in that vicinity have no objection, we cannot see why any one else should be hostile to the project. The street on which the new road is to run is already occupied by a railroad track, and it appears that John W. Young, the President of the road, is willing "to aid in such an arrangement as will bring all the roads along one street into a union depot." This will no doubt be the ultimate adjustment, and will save a great deal of valuable street space and much public inconvenience.

The suggestion made by Councilor Le Grand Young to put a stop to the excessive and horrible locomotive whistling that makes both night and day hideous, is a good one, that will be endorsed by the suffering inhabitants of the western part of the city and by the public generally.

We are in favor of railroads and telegraphs, and all kinds of expeditions means of locomotion and communication. We hope this new road to the Lake will be built and operated and become successful, also the other roads in which Mr. Young is interested, as they are all full of promise of benefit to Utah. And if they prove also of benefit to him, we do not think any consistent person will object.

The two competing lines we have through this Territory are not harmful to the people but the contrary. More lines are bound to come, and those who have enterprise enough to put them through should receive encouragement rather than opposition, provid-