

WE notice that the Duke of Cambridge has given his sanction for the instruction of a large number of men selected from the infantry battalions in the South-Eastern district in the duties of mounted infantry, and for this purpose some of the horses of the 7th Hussars, now at Shorncliffe under orders for India, are to be used. The men selected are to be first-class shots, receiving extra duty pay, and the course of instruction will last two months. If this matter is considered so important in England, how should it be regarded in Canada, where the whole country seems to have been laid out with the one end in view of adapting it to mounted infantry evolutions? We would also emphasize the fact that in the selection of men for this purpose first-class shots are to be picked. Is it possible that the day is coming when marksmanship will be officially recognized as of prime importance?

FOR some weeks past there have been no general orders, probably in consequence of Sir Adolphe Caron's absence from town. A large batch of appointments is expected on Saturday next.

THE *Broad Arrow* discusses the question of repeating rifles for the British army in this wise: "What would it cost the country to give a repeating rifle to all the men of the regular forces? The Austrians are spending four millions sterling, over a period of five or six years, to supply their large army with a repeating rifle. We suppose our regular army could be provided with repeating rifles for half a million of money, a smaller sum than we have often wasted, and shall waste again, in such follies as sending out a railway to be laid down from Suakim to Berber, and which was first pulled up by the Soudanese as fast as it was laid, and then brought home again in triumph. Of course we could reduce the expense by selling the old Martini-Henry rifles to the Burmese or Zulus, the Soudanese prefer Remingtons or Winchester." Yes, and now we hear that the Germans propose adopting repeating rifles for all their troops at an estimated cost of twenty million pounds.

Personals.

Sir Adolphe Caron is yet in Quebec.

General Middleton has not yet left town on his western trip.

Captain Magee, of the St. John Fusiliers, is taking a short course at A school.

Lieut.-Colonel Houghton, D.A.G., has returned to Winnipeg from a holiday trip to British Columbia.

Major Arthur E. Curren, of the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, Halifax, was married here yesterday to Miss Anna S. Fowler, step-daughter of James E. Chipman, Esq., of Halifax. We congratulate the gallant major on joining the ranks of the benedicts, and tender to him and his bride our most heartfelt wishes for their future happiness and success.

Colonel Duncan Macpherson, chief of the clan Macpherson, is dead. He commanded the Black Watch in the Aashantee war and was severely wounded at the battle of Amoaful, where he fought gallantly, and on his return to England was made a C.B. He was made a full colonel in 1879. His last active service was at Tel-el-Kebir, where he behaved with great distinction.

New Publications.

We have been sent a neatly printed pamphlet, containing the libretto of Mr. Bronghall's latest dramatic effort "The Tricket Troubadour," which was last month presented to a Winnipeg audience by amateurs of the 90th battalion, for the benefit of their regimental funds. It is a four act burlesque in grand operas, adapted to the music of Verdi's "Il Trovatore." It is full of local hits and hard puns, but having no "military color" only interests us in so far as it affects the L.B.I's. The Winnipeg papers tell us that it met with a warm reception, and that the personations of the various characters were wonderfully amusing and successful.

Canada as a Remount Station.

IT is rather unfortunate that the officers forming the commission to enquire into the capabilities of the Dominion as a field for supplying remounts for the home cavalry, have not been more favorably impressed by their experiences. That England requires horses there is no doubt. For 17,000 men she had lately only about 10,000 horses, and everybody knows that for practical purposes a dismounted dragoon is not of much account. We believe the fault found with this country is that suitable horses cannot be bought at regulation prices, and expenses paid. But if England *must* have horses she *must* be content to give something more for her remounts. When a war cloud drifts up we know what a flurry there is to pick up a few hundred horses. Ireland has up to this been the chief equine recruiting station, but in her large fairs, like Ballinasloe, Banagher, etc., the buyers for the British army have to enter into competition with agents from France, Germany, and other foreign governments, who pick up all the likely animals they can get. A young sound four-year-old colt can hardly be raised for the price the British government allows—especially when we take into account the many horses that "go wrong," from spavins, curbs and all the other ills that horse-flesh is heir to. Here in Canada, with cheap land, and many other advantages, our farmers ought to be able to furnish the right material, and have a fair profit. At home nearly all the horses bought for the cavalry are *un-trained* four-year-olds. Two and three year old colts, dragged out of all shape and spirit by too early work, will never make troopers. At the late Dominion exhibition at Sherbrooke, P.Q., the detachments paraded for the Lieutenant-Governor's special cavalry prize, before Col. Ravenhill, R.A., were not at all the stamp for cavalry remounts.

It is not to be expected that our volunteer dragoons can afford to keep up chargers expressly for the short spell of military work that falls to their lot annually or bi-annually. These horses have to earn their hay and oats in the plough or some other honorable employment, and it is hard to expect them to have the gloss and grit of their pampered brethren of such crack regiments as the 10th Hussars, or the 17th Lancers.

Still we *can* have the horses, and with care and judgment in breeding there would be no difficulty in our turning out plenty of fine horses fit for any corps in the service.

Austria has her regular remount stations, whence a supply of trained troopers can always be drawn, and it appears to be perfectly feasible to establish such stations here.

Let the English government establish breeding ranches in the Northwest, using the best of the "cast" mares and picked thorough-bred sires. It is claimed that a five-year-old horse can be raised there for \$25 (at least so the Canadian Pacific stated of their exhibits at Sherbrooke) and at this price, or even double that sum, there should be a very handsome margin of profit left.

Affiliated with these breeding stations, there should be established training stations, say in a convenient district like the Eastern townships, whence a port could be reached in a few hours—where the horses could be brought and "made."

In this work deserving non-commissioned cavalry officers could get employment, or the artillery or cavalry schools could be utilized to turn out the "troopers" in good shape.

In this way England could always have a few hundred sound, thoroughly trained horses, fit to turn into the ranks at an hour's notice. But, in whatever way it is to be managed, it behooves us to try and secure the English cavalry horse trade. If we can do so, we will far better aid the empire than by thinking of adding our drop, in the shape of a battalion or two, to the maelstrom of a continental war.

T. S. B.

The Royal Military Tournament.

THE following graphic sketch of this summer's tournament we take from *The Field*, reproducing it not only on account of its intrinsic interest, but in the hope that it may prompt some genius in our Canadian militia to organize, not perhaps a similar tournament, but some modest performance on a similar model. Who will undertake the difficult task?

"Great is the success of these establishments, and no one who remembers how the first tournament resulted in a clear loss of £1,500. would have ventured to prophesy that the Agricultural Hall would be thronged to its utmost limit twice daily for a week. The second of the series only showed a deficit of £500; and then, to skip over four years, the military charities benefitted last year to the extent of £4,500. The seventh tournament began on Saturday last with a dress rehearsal, and from that time down to the present there has rarely been a vacant seat in the building. The musical ride by the 2nd Life Guards is still one of the most popular items on the programme. The trotting ride dispense with lances, as well as with the final charge; but on one or two