

THE EMPLOYMENT OF CAVALRY.

A thoroughly practical, without being a too technical, paper by Captain H. M. Hozier, 1st Dragoon Guards, on "The Employment of Cavalry, as illustrated by the Franco-Prussian War," was read at the Royal United Service Institution yesterday (Friday). Captain Hozier gave his views of cavalry reform by the light of his personal experiences as a special correspondent at the seat of war. He showed, by a series of facts and comparisons, that the Prussian cavalry were a superior and more suitable force in the field than the French had been. The Prussians did not profess to have heavy cavalry, but their light cavalry was in reality heavier than the French cuirassiers. It was the drill duties and tactical application of the troops that rendered the mounted portion of the Prussian Army so invincible and so strong as they appeared in the late campaign when opposed to French mounted troops. While the Prussian horses are of a powerful breed, the product of a large stud kept up for the purpose of producing the soundest horses, the French troopers are all mounted on Arabs, a weak and puny sort of horses, which were in the late campaign easily put hors de combat by Prussian cavalry. Captain Hozier described numerous instances of cavalry charges bearing down everything before them, and especially French cavalry. At the Battle of Orléans the charges of Prussian cavalry broke the French infantry battalions in all its positions, and mainly contributed to the annihilation of the Army of the Loire. But it was only in strength, discipline, and courage that the Prussian cavalry was so powerful. The Uhlans were an active, intelligent, and almost ubiquitous force. Their vidette duties were admirably performed, while, on the contrary, the French troops appear to have had no idea of videtting, reconnoitring, and cutting off stragglers for the purposes of priority of information regarding strategical movements and positions.

The conclusion arrived at by Captain Hozier, with regard to a good cavalry arm, were as follows.—The desiderata were as taught us by the Prussian arm: 1. That we should keep up large studs and foster a breed of the strong and powerful horses for cavalry purposes. 2. That the cavalry arm of the Service should be strengthened numerically. 3. That our heavy cavalry force should be more developed. 4. The vidette duties should be inculcated upon the Prussian system. 5. That tactically and strategically, the movements of the cavalry should be promptly organised for service upon a system similar to the Prussian. 6. That the use of topographical maps should be inculcated as a branch of military studies. 7. Abolish all weighty accoutrements for cavalry. The lecture was received with much applause, and the chairman (General Sir E. Cust), in thanking Captain Hozier for his valuable communication, said that as an old cavalry officer he had never listened to a clearer and more practical lecture. It had shown how important an arm of the Service the cavalry was, and how it could be utilised to advantage in war. After the recent experiences of the continental campaigns it was highly incumbent on the English War Department that it should pay all possible attention to the cavalry arm of the Service as well as the infantry. *Broad Arrow*, 16th March.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—One of the most gratifying incidents of last week was the re-appearance of the Prince of Wales in the House of Lords for the first time after his severe indisposition. The Prince paid the Peers the compliment of visiting them on the earliest possible day after his return from the continent. Shaking hands with several Peers on the Ministerial side, he stopped at the Treasury bench, and took a seat next to Lord Granville. The Foreign Secretary had been looking at the bar, and when he turned his head, his surprise and gratification at seeing the Prince were expressed in the most lively manner. After a brief but most friendly conversation, the Prince shook hands with the Marquis of Ripon and the Earl of Kimberley, and then bent his steps towards the cross bench, still shaking hands with the Peers on his way. When he left the House, he returned to the Throne on tranche on the other side of the clerk's table, which enabled him to exchange salutations en route with the Conservative Peers. The Prince stopped at the woolsock to take a seat by the side of the Lord Chancellor, with whom he held a long and pleasant conversation. The Prince afterwards stood at the rail, and chatted with several of his friends and acquaintances. The unaffected pleasure of the Peers at seeing him again, the mingled warmth and respect of their salutations and the kindness, affability, grace and bonhomie with which the Prince acknowledged and returned their courtesies, made the scene a very pleasant one.—*Exchange*.

Engineering for last week points out that the recent splitting of the tube of the 35 ton gun was not caused by the powder pressure but by the hard stud on which this capitally made shot—to speak of its metal only—rested. Had the accident been due to the powder pressure, the crack would have been made in the upper groove of the gun, where there must necessarily be greater pressure from the gases escaping over the shot than in the lower part of the bore, when there is no perceptible rush of gas. The article states that "the centre of the crack is fourteen inches outside the point at which the maximum pressure is received"; and adds that the recovered projectiles show that some of their very hard studs "overrode the grooves" and that other studs were partially sheared. The writer then goes on to say that had the axis of the shot coincided truly with that of the gun, the stud would have passed evenly through the bore without those "eccentric powder pressure varying from twenty-seven to sixty six tons on the square inch." As regards the probable effect produced by what Colonel Owen calls the oblique movement in the bore of the gun of studded projectiles, we are officially told, says our contemporary, that cracks found in stored shot generally run through their stud holes, and that a blow upon the stud splits the projectile with surprising ease, while it may be safely hammered upon any other part. This being the case, we fear that projectiles which rest in the bore of the gun upon a single stud, and are forced down by the powder gases so violently as to flatten the stud sufficiently to leave the impress of the rifle groove upon the base of the shot, can not be fired past supporting vessels, or over boats, or on the decks of turret-ships, without incurring a grave risk.—*Broad Arrow*.

While some of the distinguished visitors to Shoeburyness, on Thursday week, were examining the penetration of the two 700-lbs. Palliser shot into the 18½ inches of iron and 12 inches of wood which constituted the target, others were seen picking up some of the pellets of powder thrown out of the gun unconsumed, which lay in the grass about twenty yards from its muzzle. The question naturally arises whether this waste powder would have been consumed had the gun been heated by continuous firing? Further, what relation obtains between heated chambers and rapidity of powder consumption, and how far the 35-ton gun, or more precisely, the 700 lbs. shot, resting on two studs would endure the extra shock or "kick," due to heated chambers? As the *Devastation* class are being built, at a cost of £400,000 a piece, for the exclusive use of 35-ton guns, this point should be kept in view in any future test to which the gun is subjected. *Broad Arrow*.

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 19th July 1872

GENERAL ORDERS (20).

ACTIVE MILITIA

REGULATIONS FOR ANNUAL DRILL OF 1872-73.

ARTILLERY.

Adverting to Paragraph 16 of G. O. (14) 31st May, 1872, the period of the assembly, at Fort Henry, Kingston, of the Napanee, Trenton and Cobourg Garrison Batteries, is hereby changed from 20th July to 5th September next, and for the Durham (Fort Hope) Field Battery, is hereby changed from 25th August also to 5th September next. And the place and date of the assembly of the Collingwood Garrison Battery is changed from "New Fort Toronto, 20th July" to "Fort Henry, Kingston, 5th October."

Provisional Battalion on Service in Manitoba.

Leave of absence is hereby granted to Captain Allan Macdonald, for two months from 12th instant, on private affairs.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor General;

WALKER POWELL, Lt. Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General, Militia,
Canada.

Wanted,

A BAND-MASTER for the F. W. B. Rifle Band, and particulars as to salary etc. apply to RICHARD W. BARROW, Captain, President Band Committee, Kingston, Ont., July 20th, 1872.