

That only wheels from a "halt" shall be made on a fixed pivot.

That unless specially ordered, a body of troops shall always advance after wheeling without word of command, following its leader.

That all deployments, unless otherwise ordered, shall be made on the prolongation of both flanks of the leading body, which effects a great saving of time; for instance, that the second division of a squadron in column shall always form on the right, the rear sections on the left of the leading division. On the same principle, in a regimental column of divisions the second squadron shall form on the right of the leading squadron, the rear wing forming on the left of the latter.

That in forming column on any named squadron, the squadrons on the right shall move first into column, those on the left following them.

That in advancing or retiring in column of divisions from a deployed squadron, the right section shall invariably move off first.

That changes of position shall no longer be considered field movements, but that the commanding officer will take his regiment by the shortest route and in the handiest manner, by wheeling the head of the column or columns, or if the change of direction be less than the quarter circle, by shouldering to its new position (the responsibility which is now shared by so many officers in such movements being thereby greatly diminished and resting only on the leaders).

That the so-called "quarter-column" (which is now a meaningless term), a formation from which, under the present troop system, all deployments are very complicated, be abolished entirely, and line-of-squadron columns at close intervals be substituted for it.

That the squadron leader should ride well away (at about 30 paces) in front of his squadron deployed and in columns or divisions, and the same distance on the flank in regimental column, watching the commanding officer and in no way occupying himself with the discipline and order of his squadron.

That on the order to "attack," swords should be drawn, and the squadron leader should at once fall back to the right hand of the third division leader, his proper place in the "charge" (otherwise a gradual reduction of pace might be accepted as a signal to slacken the pace of the squadron).

That regiments should be exercised much more frequently than is at present the case, in trotting and galloping for long distances (necessitated by the long range of modern firearms), and in charging, rallying in any direction, into column or line, behind their leaders, pursuing, etc.

That squadrons should be trained to gallop for from six to ten minutes, and then to deploy and charge.

That bases with swords held up, which are worse than useless, and confusing on the move (as two horses cannot possibly keep level to an inch at full gallop for long), and without the aid of which a perfect line can be formed even at "halt," be entirely abolished.

That in future all distances and intervals be calculated in paces, instead of in yards, horses' lengths, feet, etc., as at present.

That the breadth occupied by a mounted man be calculated at one and a quarter paces—i. e., four men abreast occupying five paces.

That the length of a horse be taken as three paces (90 inches.)

That the distance between front and rear rank, and between leaders of divisions and the front rank be reduced to two paces, which was the regulated distance in the British Cavalry up to 1862, and which is found amply sufficient in the Austro-Hungarian Cavalry and which obviates the undue lengthening of columns. (The distance between ranks can be increased, if deemed advisable, when squadrons are deployed).

That the squadron "interval" shall always be 10 paces instead of 12 yards.

That the theoretical rates of pace laid down in the existing regulations of—

Walk,	not to exceed	4 miles per hour
Trot,	"	8 "
Gallop,	"	12 "

be rejected, especially as regards the gallop, the pace of 12 miles an hour never being adhered to in practice, and being far slower than that of any cavalry in Europe (except Russian).

Present English rate of Gallop—352 yards per minute

" German and Austrian do.—436 " "

or more than 2½ miles in favour of the latter per hour.

The canter only to be retained for riding-school and parade (not to exceed 300 paces a minute).

That in order to bring about quiet riding and order in the ranks, and to lessen the fatigue of the horses and save their backs, the men should rise in their stirrups always in the field, after being carefully instructed in the riding-school in the art of doing so, as is done in all Continental armies.

That the men shall be taught to ride in the field with double reins and using both hands, it being impossible to ride over broken ground or to jump fences riding only on the curb-rein.

That swords be drawn except for parade purposes only when the order and authority is given.

That the adjutant should act as aide-de-camp to the commanding officer (the second in command exercising a general superintendence.)

#### NEW ARMY RIFLE FOR THE U. S.

The Board of United States Army Officers, ordered to report on a small calibre rifle suitable for the army of the United States, convened recently. It consists of Col. A. V. Kantz, 8th Infantry, President; Lieut.-Col. R. H. Hall, 6th Infantry; Major G. W. McKee, Ordnance Department; Capt. H. B. Freeman, 7th Infantry; Capt. G. S. Anderson, 6th Cavalry, and Capt. S. E. Blunt, Ordnance Department, Recorder.

The Board is directed to select a magazine system for rifles and carbines, and also to test and report for adoption such smokeless powder as is deemed most advisable to use. In its sitting of a few days' duration the Board has drafted its rules to govern the test of small arms. The arms to be tried may be submitted from any source, only they must not exceed a .30-cal., and must be adapted to the Franfort Arsenal cartridge. The smokeless powder to be used in the tests has already been contracted for with Belgian establishments. Other grades of nitrate powders will be open to acceptance. All tests will be competitive. The session of the Board is not limited, and in all likelihood will be prolonged until a desirable arm is obtained. The tests will be made at Springfield, Mass., and will be inaugurated during the early part of March. The delay is necessitated because of the non-receipt of the nitrate powders. This delay, however, will afford inventors more time in which to prepare specimen weapons.

The necessity for a small calibre rifle has long been felt in the United States. To-day the army and marine are using the Springfield single-shot breech-loading piece. As a serviceable weapon there is, perhaps, none better in the world than the Springfield. On the other hand, the low initial velocity of its shots make it in point of fighting efficiency immeasurably inferior to the new German rifle, to the new British, or to the new Austrian rifle.

The Austrian rifle, the Mannlicher, has a calibre of .315 in. It weighs 9.68 lbs., and has a vertical fixed box magazine holding five cartridges. The Mannlicher has a muzzle velocity of about 2,000 ft. per second.