

fortnight about 60 men of the 10th foot. With these men, three troops of the military train, and 60 men of the Sikh cavalry he followed up the enemy with remarkable success.

Unquestionably something might be done towards training mounted infantry in peace times. The men might be selected and encouraged to perfect themselves in horsemanship, transport ponies being occasionally placed at the disposal of regiments for this purpose; but it should never be carried to such an extent as at any time to interfere with the men's training as foot soldiers, because, especially in these days of short service, it will take men the best part of their time to efficiently master their dismounted duties, and until they can shoot well, and are otherwise thoroughly trained as infantry soldiers, they should not be drafted into the mounted branch. We all know that to prosecute war successfully money must necessarily be spent with a lavish hand, and mounted infantry is one of the channels into which it should freely flow. And, after all said and done, the equipping and mounting of a few hundred men on ponies would be a mere drop in the ocean as compared with the general expenses of a war. Indeed, mounted infantry is one of the few items of expenditure which would really give a tangible return. In addition to the tactical advantages of such a body in the field, which I shall endeavor to show hereafter, the relief to the cavalry would be immense, and would undoubtedly largely diminish casualties in horseflesh. Horses, it should be remembered, sometimes cannot be replaced during a campaign for love or money, whereas ponies can nearly always be obtained, and are far more easily broken in and trained. Besides, mounted infantry could certainly be equipped and mounted for one-third of the expense incurred in mounting and equipping cavalry.

The duties of mounted infantry would be to aid the infantry both on the line of march and in action, and to relieve the cavalry horses of many of those harassing duties which would be felt so much less by the hardy ponies of the country. The ponies for the most part should be purchased in the country in which the army was operating; and thus a very useful body of mounted men might be put into the field at a comparatively small outlay, and at very short notice, for the performance of duties which, although usually undertaken by cavalry, would be better performed by mounted infantry, while a large portion of the cavalry itself would be set free to carry on its more important and legitimate duties. I shall now proceed to discuss, in detail, the organisation, equipment, training, and duties of mounted infantry.

Each infantry regiment in the force should contribute fifty picked men, who should include the usual proportion of non-commissioned officers, for the formation of a mounted corps. I would not confine this to European regiments only, but draw men from native regiments, embodying the races in separate corps, and calling them "Mounted British Infantry," and "Mounted Native Infantry." Thus, for example, if the 1st army corps, recently warned for service in Afghanistan, had been mobilised, the mounted infantry under this scheme would have consisted of 600 mounted British infantry and 500 mounted native infantry—a most valuable addition to an army corps. The men should be specially selected for these corps; they must be intelligent, light, and active men, good shots, and good riders. All these qualifications cannot be expected in every man, but they should approach as near to this standard of excellency as possible. The officers should also be selected on the same grounds, and might be drawn from all branches of the service, but as a rule infantry officers would, probably, be best fitted for these corps. To every fifty men there should be at least one officer, besides the commanding officer and the staff. A few well-trained sappers would be an invaluable addition to mounted infantry and an engineer officer might with advantage be attached to each corps.

The equipment should be as light as is compatible with efficiency. No particular change in the ordinary dress of an infantryman would be necessary, except that for these mounted duties he should be supplied with putties or leg bandages, and short-shanked hunting spurs. A blanket for the horse should be neatly folded, and placed under the saddle; the man's blanket should be spread over the saddle, and secured with a surcingle; the great coat should be strapped to the cantle, and waterproof over the wallets; the saddle, not heavier than 12 lbs., should be fitted with saddle-bags and holsters, the former suspended from D's by straps, being removable at pleasure. In one of the holster pockets should be a revolver, and in the other thirty rounds of ball ammunition for the rifle. The man should carry forty more himself. In one saddle bag should be stowed one flannel shirt, one pair of flannel drawers, one pair of socks, one pair of boots. In the other, one day's cooked rations and 3 lbs. of grain for the pony! In countries where water is scarce, like Afghanistan or the Soudan, each pony should carry below the girths a *chhagal* of prepared kid's skin for holding water. In fact, all mounted officers and men of every branch of the service should, under these circumstances, be provided with them. The importance of having a small supply of cool, fresh water cannot be over-estimated; indeed, on more than one occasion it has been the means of saving valuable lives. A

pony's *chhagal* should be made to carry two or three quarts, a horse's a gallon, which would respectively weigh about 5 and 9 lbs. when full. This additional weight would be more than compensated for by having a supply of good water for man and beast. Water carried in a *chhagal*, owing to constant evaporation, is always remarkably cool. The hotter and drier the climate the cooler the water.

Detail of equipment with weights:	st.	lb.
The man.....	10	7
Rifle and ammunition (70 rounds).....	1	4*
Two blankets.....	0	7
Greatcoat.....	0	6
Waterproof sheet.....	0	3
Saddle, bridle and wallets.....	1	0
Saddle bags, waterproof-canvas.....	0	3
Rations for man.....	0	3
Grain for pony.....	0	3
Picket rope, &c.....	0	2
Miscellaneous small articles.....	0	4
Total.....	15	0

All non-commissioned officers should be furnished with watches, binoculars, and compasses.

This weight compares very favorably with the weight carried by cavalry, which is seldom under 18, and often over 20 stone. Well-selected ponies varying from 13-1 to 14 hands should be able to carry the maximum weight of 15 stone with ease. Under some circumstances the weight might be greatly reduced; for example, in a raid, blankets, greatcoat, part of the ammunition, &c., might be left behind.

A spare pony to every 150, fitted with a cradle, should carry intrenching tools, and the regimental reserve of ammunition (30 rounds per man) should be carried on pack ponies, while the field reserve should as usual be in charge of the artillery.

(To be Continued.)

	lbs.	ozs.
* Martini-Henry.....	9	0
Long bayonet.....	1	0
70 rounds of ammunition.....	7	9½
	17	9½

## Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—In the sixth paragraph of your issue of the 27th ult. you make a statement that militiamen have been combining to hold political meetings in the west, but you do not specify where, and consequently some evil intentioned persons have applied your strictures to the "citizens' meeting" held in Toronto, on the 25th ult., to discuss volunteers' rights.

I think from the first you have been misled and unconsciously allowed yourself to be made a tool of by those on both sides of politics, who wish to "let the matter lie until after the elections," and who would then let it go again until the next elections. And you are attempting to accord to the militiamen, as militiamen, even less freedom of discussion than is allowed in the Imperial service to regulars, and also, doubtless unthinkingly, you are lending yourself to the attempt to deprive a citizen of his rights of discussion because he happens to belong to the volunteers.

When the Toronto meeting was announced calling upon "citizens interested and ex-volunteers," the politicians went mad, and the tearing of hair was wonderful. Telegrams went flying from Toronto to Ottawa, and vice-versa, and "the powers that be" entreated to somehow or other to stop it, and bring it under the Queen's Regulations, and call it a "volunteers' political meeting," instead of a meeting of citizens as it was; even your powerful aid was apparently invoked, judging from your issue of the 27th ult., and everything was done that could be done to put the meeting in a false light. At the meeting itself I was called upon to speak, and began by saying that I was there only as a citizen exercising my civil rights, and I reviewed the attempts as mentioned above and then went on to criticise your article of 27th ult. and to show that you were not altogether right and that even if the volunteers had chosen to meet and discuss the necessary reforms they certainly had equal rights as conceded to the army and navy by the Imperial authorities.

Up to this time the *Globe* party had been jubilant, but when it was found that only two speakers out of seven belonged to the militia and that they only spoke as citizens to citizens it was called a "fizzle," and the 200 men present were "3 young men in the front benches."

I beg to differ entirely from what I understand as your opinion, and I would say to every militiaman in Canada: Now is your time. "As a citizen" you have a vote and certain rights, do not be bamboozled into being afraid to use them. Let it be known that "as a citizen" you insist upon the volunteer militia, in which you take so much interest, being properly treated. Go to political meetings "as a citizen." Ask the candidates leading questions on the militia subject, and if possible get from them a pledge that in future the militia shall be properly treated.

And, finally, rather give up your standing as a volunteer than your rights as a citizen.

C. GREVILLE-HARSTON.

Toronto, 1st February, 1887.