

the manufacture of a new service gun means steady employment, directly or indirectly, for some 2,000 or 3,000 people over a period of perhaps five or six years. "Already," *Iron* says, "about a thousand persons are engaged on the magazine rifle at the Birmingham Small-Arms Factory and at the Government establishments in the same locality; while perhaps as many more are connected with the preparation of the barrels, materials, machinery, and ammunition. A considerable number of operatives also are employed in the manufacture of this gun at the Government factory at Enfield and at the works of the London Small-Arms Company. At the factory of the Birmingham Small-Arms Company alone, 500 finished magazine rifles a week are being turned out, and the number will probably soon be increased to 1,000. Probably twice as many more are being produced at the Government factories at Enfield and Sparkbrook, and if to this is added the output of the London Small-Arms Factory, the combined production means about 2,000 rifles a week, which would represent an expenditure of some £45,000 or £50,000 a month. Moreover, in some of these cases contracts have been entered into extending over several years. Under the foregoing circumstances, the manufacturers hold it to be satisfactory that up to the present they have received no official confirmation of the rumours."

The *Army and Navy Gazette* quotes approvingly, as an argument which should strengthen the loyalty of the Colonies to the Mother-country, that recently put forward by Major G. S. Clarke, R.E., in the *United Service Magazine*, in a reply to Dr. Bakewell's recent "Dialogue" in the *Nineteenth Century*: "Major Clarke rightly says that the rising generation in Australia knows little of the Mother-country, her history, or her place among the nations, and many Colonists vaguely dream, as apparently Dr. Bakewell does, that their safety and self-interest lie in independence of her. Yet, though the trade of England with her Australian Colonies forms a small portion of the vast total of her commerce, it is the very life-blood of those Colonies. So long as they are part of the Empire, the whole strength of the Navy, actual or potential, will be put forth to shield their trade and guard their lines of communication. Those lines, as Major Clarke acutely adds, are the only lines on which they can be effectively assailed; but, if our enemy should find a distant enterprise practicable, then our squadrons will pursue, as Nelson pursued Villeneuve to the West Indies. It is a dangerous fallacy to hold that the safety of the Colonies necessarily calls for strong British squadrons to patrol their coasts. Rather it is on the Channel Squadron, the Cape Squadron, the China Squadron, and even the Indian Squadron, that the security of the Australian coasts, territory, and trade depends."

We gladly insert "Nap's" explanatory letter, but must protest against his suspicion that we put a construction it would not bear upon his former one. "Nap" asked for the H. Q. Staff "an officer who knows not only the wants but the shortcomings of the Militia"; and from this the ill-informed would be led to believe that the Staff were now without an officer possessing such knowledge. Of course "Nap" did not intend a slight to anyone, but we think if he were writing his letter over again he would express himself in different words.

The experiment about to be tried, with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, of arming cavalry regiments partly with the lance and partly with the sword is exciting much interest. It is proposed that the front rank of each troop shall carry lance and carbine, only the rear rank bearing sword and carbine as heretofore. Should the initial trial, which is to be made by the 5th Dragoon Guards at Aldershot, with the aid of lance instructors supplied by the 12th Lancers, be successful, it is believed an experiment on a much larger scale will be made. The German cavalry are, it is said, about to be turned into lancers, and the Austrian Emperor, it is supposed, would like to follow suit, but hesitates to re-establish the lance after having discarded it but some six years ago.

## Correspondence.

(This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.)

### THE EXTRA AIDE FOR THE G. O. C.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—As my *nom de plume* is perhaps known to many, I must ask you to insert this letter in answer to your comments on mine, concerning an extra A.D.C., in your last issue.

It appears to me that you have gone out of your way to suggest that I intended a slight on the Adjutant General, for whom I, in common with the whole force, have the most sincere respect.

The extra officer proposed would be naturally junior to all the H. Q. Staff, and my letter expressly states that the more he knew the more assistance he would be to the H. Q. Staff. Yet your remarks almost make it appear as if I was aiming at superseding the chief and most useful officer any military organization can have.

I must confess that I am somewhat hurt at the tone of your comment, and beg that you will kindly insert this, and thereby free me from the entirely undeserved imputation of having forgotten how much we have owed and still owe to the Adjutant General. Yours obediently,  
"NAP."

### THE MINIATURE MEDAL REGULATIONS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I have read the letter of Snap-Cap on the regulations respecting miniature medals. He talks about it being a "new fad" of Sir R. Buller, and the old regulations being found good. Allow me to point out that this is not a *new* order, but simply the old state of things enforced. Miniature medals were never regulation in uniform.

I am not by any means an admirer of Sir Redver Buller, after the vindictive way he treated me personally, all because the "Duke" sat on him in my presence, but "give the devil his due."

Yours, etc., C. GREVILLE HARSTON.

Toronto, 12th November, 1890.

## Artillery Rapid Firing.

(From the London Times.)

Some important experiments were carried out last week at the artillery range of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co. The principal object of trial was a 6-inch quick-firing gun of 40 calibres of length on a mounting of new design, specially arranged to be suitable for either the upper decks or the between deck batteries of our new cruisers. Another feature of this trial was the use of cordite, the new smokeless gunpowder, which has been the subject of extensive trial during the last twelve months and seems likely to make a complete revolution in artillery warfare. The proof of this gun was carried out by the Woolwich authorities at Silloth, when the remarkable velocity of 2,609 f. s. was obtained with a charge of cordite powder.

The programme began by firing five rounds with a charge of E X E powder and service projectile for rapidity. The total time of firing these five rounds was 61 seconds. The same experiment was then carried out with a charge of cordite, but after three rounds the firing was stopped for a few minutes to remove a burr in the threads of the breech action, caused by sand getting into the gun. The first three rounds of this series were fired in 24 seconds, and the second two in 15 seconds. Five rounds were then fired with E X E powder (non-smokeless) and service projectile at a target which consisted of two casks lashed together, with a flag above them, at 900 yards range. There being no wind, the smoke hung a great deal, and the firing was therefore directed by an observer who stood clear of the smoke. The five rounds were fired in 61 seconds, the target being struck twice, the other three shots just missing.

To show the advantages of cordite over the E X E powder, five rounds were then fired with the former at the same target, the flag and staff of which still remained upright, as, the tide being low, the target rested on sand. It was found quite feasible to fire with the utmost rapidity, and yet, on account of the smokeless quality of the powder, to aim each shot deliberately. The result was that out of five shots the target was actually struck four times (which completely destroyed the casks and perforated the flag several times), and the last shot was only five yards short; and these five rounds with the above remarkable accuracy, were got off in the surprisingly short time of 55 seconds. Five rounds with E X E were now tried, changing from one target to another, three targets being placed at ranges 900, 1,400 and 1,800 yards, and spread out so that the gun had to be traversed through a considerable arc of training in going from one to the other. The results