

has gained, and marked results will, I feel persuaded, be observable in future concentrations.

The Royal Engineers, with their equipment and pontoon train attached, had less opportunity of developing their special duties than I could have wished; but whenever called upon to assist in the formation of encampments, the passage of obstacles, the obtaining of water supply, and other like duties, fully maintained the character for intelligence and resource for which they have at all times been distinguished. The use of the pontoons was unfortunately only possible over the canal which was within the line of operations; but whenever required they were at hand, and proved of value to the movements that took place. The field works at Chobham to defend the position there taken up were judiciously executed by the corps, aided by the Volunteer Engineers and the working parties of infantry, and showed that the officers were alive to the advantages of ground, and had in their non-commissioned officers and men the means at hand for turning those advantages to account. The field telegraph was worked entirely by the corps, and did much hard and useful service. I would however, remark that I think some improved mode of laying the wires is absolutely necessary, as that adopted of placing them along the road led to the inconvenience of their being constantly cut and broken by mischievous people in the neighborhood, whereby the communication was constantly and most inconveniently impeded for lengthened periods. If it were possible to raise the wires so as to be less accessible, it would, I am certain, be a more reliable means of communication.

The solidity and efficiency of the infantry battalions, both of the Guards and Line, was generally highly satisfactory. It was to be regretted that many corps were unable to come out in any great strength, but this of course is a question of establishment, which must be regulated according to the annual requirements of the Service. Possibly, when a larger body of men have been enrolled in the reserves, the regular army may be supplemented for these occasions of manoeuvres by men of the reserve filling up the ranks of battalions to an approximate war establishment, which cannot be kept up in ordinary times of peace. Such an arrangement would add greatly to the strength and weight of our present regiments, which are admirable as cadres to be expanded into larger bodies. The battalion of Guards, and some other corps highest up for foreign service, showed to greater advantage in this respect, having larger establishments. The marching of the men was all that could be wished. Few, if any, stragglers were to be seen, though the marches were at times long and tedious, with a large amount of dust, always most unfavorable to the working powers of men; and the efficiency of battalions on the day of parade and march-past, was a clear proof that non-commissioned officers and men were none the worse for their unusual exertions, and that they had been well looked after by their officers. The new equipment seems to answer remarkable well, and all the corps that carried it were satisfied with the result. The movements in line must be thoroughly understood to be fully appreciated. In foreign armies, columns are almost invariably in use, which of late years have been modified in the Prussian Army by the introduction of company columns with large intervening bodies of skirmishers. The value of these, as compared to the heavier columns of whole battalions, or even regiments of more than one battalion, cannot be overrated, and nobody

is more prepared to appreciate their utility than I am; but wing columns can easily be more adopted in our service than they hitherto have been, and no doubt would be found very valuable, so long as the troops are not exposed to any severe direct fire. But with exposure to fire, the ground admitting of large development, I am as strong an advocate as ever for the formation in line, to which our troops have ever been accustomed and in which extended order with good reserves in support, they have been so often able to resist the most formidable attacks by troops in formation of columns, far less exposed themselves from the thinness of the double line of men, as compared to the depth of men in column. It requires both steadiness and solidity—which is another term for confidence to justify the line formation, but these are qualities which I venture to believe and hope our infantry possess, and under these circumstances I do not think it would be right to give up a formation which has hitherto always proved itself to be well adapted to the character of our troops. The skirmishing of our men has greatly improved, from the value all men attach to good and deliberate shooting, and was generally much approved of. I think at times regiments and companies, and indeed whole brigades, exposed themselves too much to direct fire, and the undulations of the ground were not at all times sufficiently appreciated or taken advantage of, but these are defects which manoeuvres will mend, and I doubt not that great changes for the better will be visible in coming years. The outpost duties of infantry still require much study, and it is in such duties that these larger concentrations are so valuable, as their real objects or results cannot be so fully appreciated as when demonstrated by manoeuvres on an extended scale. The desire of all to learn these duties was, however, so apparent, that I feel persuaded no opportunity will henceforth be lost to master the subject thoroughly and with effect.

I regret extremely that the Yeomanry were only represented by one corps, the Hampshire. When these manoeuvres were first announced, several corps volunteered to take part in them, and no doubt would have done so but for the difficulty of leaving home during the period of harvest, which at the time had not been thoroughly completed. The Hampshire Yeomanry, during the week they were with the force, looked and did well, as would no doubt other portions, of the force had they been able to attend. I think the Yeomanry, as a home Auxiliary force, valuable and useful; but I think their equipment should be simplified as much as possible, and that they should be specially trained to use their carbines or short rifles dismounted. Knowing the country well, they would in this manner do much good service, and would be moreover very useful in escorting convoys, gaining information, and patrolling with a view to keeping up communications. The great difficulty is decidedly to find periods of the year for them to concentrate, as the men and horses depend so much on harvest time and the work after harvest, the period when the weather is most suitable to the manoeuvre of troops. If the next time a concentration takes place any arrangement could be made to meet these difficulties, it would be most desirable.

(To be continued.)

Woman whipping is still indulged in by Delaware and Virginia, and the Senate of the latter State has recently refused, by vote of 8 to 21, to repeal the law punishing feminine pickpockets with the lash.

## WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

GREAT PREPARATION OF WAR MATERIALS

(From the London Weekly Despatch.)

The Royal Arsenal is still in activity in every department, which is the more remarkable, because at this period of the financial year, when the army estimates are about to issue, there are usually reductions more or less extensive. Seeing that large numbers of extra hands were taken out at the outbreak of the late war, and that most of the orders given have been long fulfilled reductions on a very extensive scale were anticipated this year, but comparatively few men have been discharged, and it is now expected that, in view of possible contingencies, the establishment will be kept up to its full strength for some time longer. Heavy guns for naval service and coast defences are being produced with unprecedented rapidity at the Royal gun factories; in the Royal Carriages Department, the manufacture of iron carriages for the guns is proceeding with corresponding speed; the men of the shell foundry are working overtime to execute new and extensive orders for Palliser and other shells of modern kinds; and in the Royal Laboratory, though the cartridge makers have accumulated such a stock of ammunition so that there is little left to do, the department is very busy in the preparation of torpedoes, fuzes, and the other material of war. In reference to torpedoes, it is scarcely a secret now that a party of skilled workmen have been some time engaged during the night only, trying, perfecting and manufacturing several new descriptions of these "submarine guns," both aggressive and defensive, and that in this respect, as in some others, the country is better protected from invasion than it has been at any previous period. The colonies and out stations are also being supplied with the newest designs of guns and other munitions of war; one large ship the *Edgar Cecil* is loading with 25 ton guns, the largest yet issued, and will sail in a day or two for Halifax N. S., notwithstanding the withdrawal of the British troops from the Dominion, and the war Department steamers *Lord Punmure* and *Earl de Gray* are engaged in shipping guns of the heaviest calibre to Portsmouth, Marchmont and the other forts round the coast.

**THE PIN TRADE.**—There are eight pin factories in the United States, whose annual production is 2,000,000 packs, each pack containing 3,660 pins, a total of 6,720,000,000 pins. One manufacturer's agent in Boston, says the *Bulletin*, sell every six months from 700 to 1,000 cases of pins per week, each case containing 672,000 pins. The factory which he represents turns out eight tons of pins per week. Hair-pins are jobbed by the cask. There is but one factory in this country that produces them. They turn out fifty tons per month. The machine that cuts and bends the wire making 360 hair-pins per minute, ready for japaing. Yankee pins are salable in nearly every city in the world, and the production and consumption increases each year about ten per cent.—*New York World*.

Mr. Charles Dilko has at least set one good example to his countrymen, not only by getting married, but also by getting married without any nuptial pomp and circumstance. He walked quietly to church from one quarter, and his lady from another. He made no long wedding tour, and was punctually in the House of Commons on the opening night.