

they returned and dug up the sack, which, according to their story, was then empty, with the exception of the fan-handle, which, being placed at the bottom of the bag, had stuck in a corner. It is presumed that some person must have seen the soldiers burying their spoil, and had forestalled their return visit. But whatever took place, it is certain that the soldiers who broke into the Palace and carried off the spoil did not reap the benefit of their undertaking. Whether the men who came forward and admitted they had been the robbers are the two men I know by sight in Burmah, I cannot say, as I have not seen either of them since my arrival in England."

Cycles for Military Purposes.

Shall mounted infantry form an integral part of the fighting forces of our empire? Shall cyclists be recognised as a distinct type of mounted infantry? Would that I were in a position to give an authoritative answer to these questions (writes Col. A. R. Saville, in *Cycling*). Assuredly my reply would be delivered in no uncertain tone. Have we not already acquired by bitter experiences the knowledge that infantry acting alone are helpless, and is there anything more certain than that in the varied operations of a campaign cavalry frequently find themselves not only delayed, but absolutely foiled, in their enterprises for lack of rifle fire? If the provision of mounted infantry had not been quite a modern inspiration, we might not have mourned for such catastrophes as the surprise on the Intombi River, the disaster at Bruncker's Spruit, the defeat at Lang's Nek, and the terrible losses at the Ingogo River. Advocates of mounted infantry bear always in mind the dashing raids of Gen. Morgan's mounted riflemen in the American Civil war, and they dwell with delight upon the prowess of the twelve men, who on the 23rd of December, 1870, brought to a standstill, before the village of Vibray, the 11th Cavalry Brigade, consisting of a cuirassier, dragoon, and uhlan regiment, and obliged Gen. von Barby to bivouac for the night instead of continuing his march.

We who urge the inclusion of cyclists among our armed forces are fortunately able to quote no less an authority than Lord Wolseley himself in support of our argument that it is impossible to dissociate cyclists from mounted infantry, though we fully admit that the means of locomotion with which a mounted riflemen may be

furnished need not necessarily be in all cases a cycle. Nevertheless, we do not abate one jot our claim that the cycle possesses numerous qualifications as a suitable mount, which are not fulfilled in the body of any living animal. Imagine a combined cavalry and cyclist force thrown far to the front of our main marching columns in order to gain contact with the enemy, discover his numbers and dispositions, divine his intentions, and remain hanging on to him. The reconnaissance part of the work can be perfectly carried out by cavalry, and in brushing aside the enemy advanced cavalry patrols our cavalry can still operate without assistance, for charging tactics will pay better than fire action. But a time must sooner or later arrive when the cavalry finds itself confronted by large bodies, and eventually by dismounted troops, then whether the subsequent action is defence in order to retain the ground already won, or attack in order to push still further on, the cyclists will certainly be called upon to help, and will find a congenial sphere of tactical employment.

The enemy will not allow our cavalry to remain calmly in observation without making a determined attempt to drive them off, and this can best be met by offensive measures on our part, then carry on the imagination to the possibility that our gallant hussars may be worsted in the fight, and it becomes apparent that a phase of the encounter must ensue during which assistance of incalculable value should be—and, I believe, can and will be—rendered by the cyclist infantry.

Before our cavalry issues forth into the open to deliver attack, the line of retreat will have been chosen, a rallying point upon it will have been fixed at a place capable of strong defence, and which is only accessible on a narrow front; at this spot the cyclist, with their machine guns, will have been posted. However excellent the quality of our cavalry may be, it is a characteristic of the arm that it cannot reform after failure until relieved of the pressure of pursuit, so the broken ranks of horsemen will stream past the flanks of our cyclists' who will open rapid fire the moment their front is clear. Let them now remember that their sole *raison d'être* is the salvation of the cavalry force to which they are attached. Cavalry are not placed in the field for the protection of cyclists; the state of affairs is the exact converse. Doubtless they will suffer heavy losses, and if needs be, they must sacrifice them-

selves for the cavalry, just as cavalry frequently ride gaily off to certain death in order to save infantry or artillery. If the duty is gallantly performed, the approbation with which the English nation always receives the news of heroic deeds will be the sure and sufficient reward of the brave cyclists.

The last militia general orders were of unusual length on account of so many changes in the commissioned ranks corps. No letters were placed after the names of the permanent corps officers promoted, showing what certificates, if any, held by them. Every other militia officer had the usual affixes, and the absence in the one case could not but excite the remark, Why?

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